FREE

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

EDF ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 15, 2015

North & West edition No 686



HEALTH

Parents' blow in cancer vaccine finding

No link between schoolgirl jab and illness, investigation rules

EDUCATION

Public school's GCSE ban threat

Don't work hard and we'll kick you off ALL courses it warns

ECONOMICS

Hammer to fall

Pressure grows as George Osborne prepares to slash County Hall funds

FILM

Star Wars saga's merchandising

Exhibition to focus on the toys and posters of phenomenon



Isn't it time for a New Garage Door?

With the ESSATI SALE, the decision's made so much easier

Our top of the range electric 'remote controlled' insulated aluminium rolling garage door -operated by hand held 'keyring' handset is currently reduced from a RRP of £2250 - to an amazing £799 inc VAT & fitting.

NOW JUST £799!

INCLUDING VAT & FREE FITTING



65% OFF

Price includes:

- Remote Control & keyring handset
- Includes free internal manual override
- All doors conform fully to EU safety directives
- White as standard, other colours available - ask for details
- Extremely secure auto-locking system
- Full 12 month warranty ◆ Bottom rubber weatherseal
- Price is for any sized single sized door up to 8ft 6" wide
- Double skinned aluminium with foam insulation

CALL 01245 396910

This special offer includes free fitting.
The offer on our website does not include free fitting
To benefit from this offer you should call: 01245 396910

www.essatigaragedoors.co.uk

Kent on Sunday

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
EDF ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

Sister title of KENT LIFE

www.kentnews.co.uk

Progress is good, but nostalgia is surely better

IT IS often only when you reach a certain age and reflect on your life that you appreciate the rate of progress; how items and processes we take for granted today seemed so remote in what seems just a few short years ago.

I remember the days when you could ring a phone number (16 I think it was) and you would gain access to BT's Dial a Disk service. Down the crackly phone line would be a random hit of the day for you to listen to. Just the one. On repeat. If you were being kind, it was an early 'on-demand prototype'; if you were being realistic, it was one of the least satisfying ways to listen to your favourite pop tune but fun back then none-the-less.

Put that today against the likes of online music services where you can access any song that comes to mind in a fraction of a second on a hugely sophisticated handheld device which also doubles up as a phone, video player, games machine and camera, and dialling 16 makes you feel rather ancient.

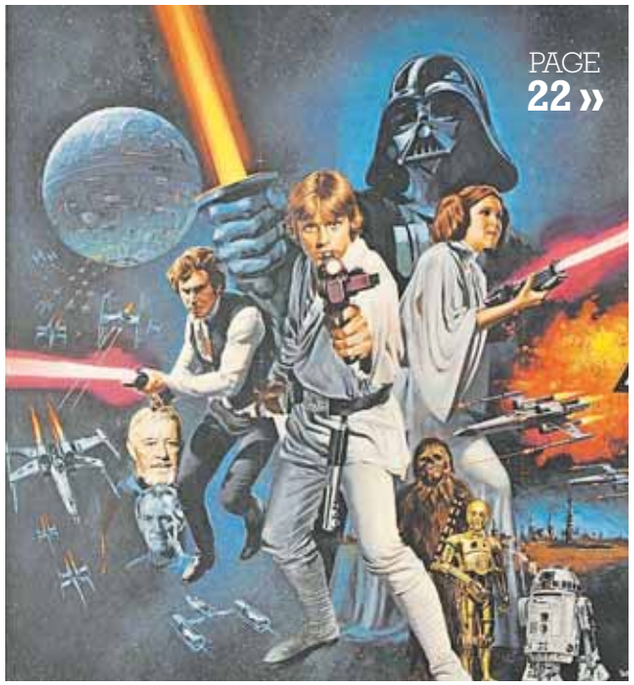
More relevant to the county was our choice of cross-Channel services - and how significant they were. The ferry firms ruled the waves and the employment they offered the county was significant from huge banks of telephone operators (this was prior to online bookings remember) to the teeming ports of Dover, Folkestone and Ramsgate.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

Inside today's edition, we take a look back at the phenomenon of the hovercraft - it came, it saw, it crossed the Channel swiftly, and it made many people on a bumpy crossing be reunited with their breakfast. But the roar and the sight of it rising from the waves at our ports was dramatic and memorable. As with so much, it is now gone from our shores, but not forgotten.

■ Kent on Sunday and its journalists are committed to abiding by the Society of Editors Code of Practice. If you have a complaint which can't be resolved by Kent on Sunday editor Chris Britcher (chris.britcher@archant.co.uk) please contact the Independent Press Standards Organisation, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG, or via complaints@ipso.co.uk. More information about IPSO and its regulations can be found at www.ipso.co.uk


PAGE 22 »


PAGE 14 »


PAGE 24 »


PAGE 05 »


PAGE 31 »


PAGE 41 »

Contents

News

06 **MP reveals miscarriage**
Agony of loss during election campaign

08 **Heist suspect is cleared**
All charges dropped in Hatton Garden raid

11 **Tough GCSE warning**
Public school to kick out those not trying

12 **Mums' blow over vaccine**
Report reveals no link with school jab

14 **Paul Carter fund blast**
KCC leader braced for further cut backs

20 **Bagpuss goes on show**
Major exhibition for children's TV favourite

22 **Star Wars exhibition**
May The Toys Be With You goes on display

24 **Remember hovercraft?**
We look back at the cross-Channel route 15 years after its final crossing


PAGE 20 »

30 **Fury over council staff**
Report on salaries stirs up a hornets' nest

The Arts

37 **Play aims for better**
Simon Mendes da Costa on production

43 **Get ready for Christmas**
The countdown to big day starts here

Plus

Letters Page 46
Sport Page 55

HOW TO CONTACT US...
Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP
Editorial: News: 01233 653475
Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01233 653461
Business: 01233 653461
Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01233 653461
Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk
Distribution: 01233 653470

FOLLOW US ONLINE @
• kentnews.co.uk
• kentnews.co.uk/mobile
• jobsforkent.co.uk
• homes24.co.uk
• drive24.co.uk
• twitter@kosmedia

Published in Kent and printed by Archant Print, division of Archant Community Media Limited (Co Reg No 19300). Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

ARCHANT



The Citan, Vito and Sprinter

0%APR*

Talk to us today

MobiloVan FREE roadside assistance

Includes a £250 deposit contribution

Extended workshop opening hours

3 year warranty on all our new vans

Citan Service Care from £7/month†

Mercedes-Benz Vans. The only thing added is value

Finance offers supporting your business in more ways than one.

A Daimler Brand

20 SPRINTER

#20Sprinter

Mercedes-Benz Vans. Born to run.

Sparshatts of Kent

01795 479571

Offer available at participating Mercedes-Benz Commercial Vehicle Dealers only and is subject to availability. See your local participating Dealer for details. Please call 0845 602 4321 to find your nearest participating Dealer. *Finance for BUSINESS USERS ONLY. Vehicles shown for illustrative purposes only. 0% APR Representative and £250.00 finance deposit contribution available on Hire Purchase only. Minimum 20% deposit of list price (plus VAT of total transaction price). Maximum term of 36 months only. 2015 Vito Urban models excluded. Option pack only available on Sprinter 2 and Sprinter 3 Series. VAT is charged at the prevailing rate. Credit provided subject to status. Offer is subject to terms and conditions. Vehicles must be registered between 01/10/2015 and 31/12/2015. Finance provided by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Ltd, MK15 8BA. †Cost is based on 3 services over a 36 month Service Care contract. Prices exclusive of 20% VAT.

seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Tax offices to be shut as part of 'modernisation'

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk



CASH: Job cuts will be kept at a minimum but reform is widely accepted as necessary for the tax office

TAX offices across Kent and the south east are to be closed as part of the next stage of a major modernisation programme by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), it was confirmed this week.

Offices in Canterbury, Chatham, Gravesend and Maidstone will all close over the next five to six years, with regional centres set up instead. There will also be a specialist site in Dover.

HMRC's workforce in the south east is currently spread throughout 43 offices. It says many of which are a legacy of the 1960s and 1970s, which range in size from around 2,000 people to fewer than ten.

HMRC chiefs say that by bringing them together in large, modern offices, HMRC will support more skilled jobs and varied career paths up to senior levels with less need to move around the country.

HMRC expects between 5,000 and 5,300 full-time equivalent employees to work in the Stratford regional centre and 2,500 to 2,800 full-time equivalent employees in the Croydon regional centre.

The modernisation programme, now at the halfway point, has previously included investment in new online services, data analytics and new compliance techniques.

Where offices are a long way from a regional centre and it is not possible for employees to move to work in one, HMRC will do everything it reasonably can to help them to find new roles, either elsewhere in the civil service, or outside, in order to minimise redundancies.

Lin Homer, HMRC's chief executive, said: "HMRC has too many expensive, isolated and out-dated offices. This makes it difficult for us to collaborate, modernise our ways of working, and make the changes we need to transform our service to customers and clamp down further on the minority who cheat the system.

"The new regional centres in Stratford and Croydon will bring our staff together in more modern and cost-effective buildings in areas with lower rents. They will also make a big contribution to the economy of the region providing high-quality, skilled jobs and supporting the Government's commitment to a national recovery that benefits all parts of the UK."

The Canterbury office will close by 2019-20, Chatham 2016-17, Gravesend 2019-20 and Maidstone 2020-21.

Question mark hangs over future of prison as part of major overhaul

THE Ministry of Justice (MoJ) says no decision has been taken on the future of Maidstone Prison after the government this week confirmed it is reviewing the future of historic town centre sites.

A joint announcement from chancellor George Osborne and justice secretary Michael Gove on Monday included plans for nine new prisons.

The government said its plans will allow the closure of old Victorian prisons in city and town centres and sell the sites for housing. But which ones they have their demolition eyes on has not yet been decided.

Maidstone's jail is in the heart of the town and sandwiched between homes and the main shopping centre.

A spokesman at the MoJ told us: "Which prisons will be sold off for housing has not yet been decided, so we have no news on what will happen to Maidstone or any other prison, apart from Reading.

"At this stage there is no real timetable for that decision either – it will be made in due course."

The governor at the jail, Dave Atkinson, told KoS he did not want to comment on any speculation.

The MoJ insists the move will clear the space, nationally, for thousands of new home while also saving the state some £80m by building new. modern facilities.

Maidstone Prison was built in 1819 and currently handles foreign nationals who have between three to 27 months left to serve.

Previously a men's prison, it housed notorious East End crook Reggie Kray for eight years of his sentence back in the 1990s.

The MoJ believes it can make an annual saving of £80 million by having more modern facilities and selling some prime sites.

It forms the latest part of a restructuring of the justice service which also sees plans to close courts in Dartford, Dover and Tunbridge Wells.

Bus drivers balloted over strike action in timetable row

MEDWAY bus drivers are to be balloted over industrial action over what union bosses say are 'unsafe' and 'unreliable' timetable changes.

More than 200 Arriva bus drivers are being polled by the union Unite.

It follows complaints the timetables would lead to excessive periods at the wheel - a problem bosses told them would be solved by September.

However, they insist the problem persists and may walk-out as a consequence. Arriva says it continues to discuss the issue and is meeting with council chiefs again this week.

Unite regional officer Dave Weeks said: ''Arriva cannot continue to shift the goalposts or bury their head in the sand over the impact of the changes.''

TV show host pedals charity rickshaw for Children in Need

ONE Show host Matt Baker took to the streets of the county this week as part of his marathon rickshaw challenge to raise funds for the Children in Need charity.

The annual TV telethon took place on Friday night with millions raised for a host of good causes.

One of the regular high profile events is the One Show Rickshaw Challenge. Returning for a fifth year, the team covers a 470-mile route from Land's End to London's East End - finishing at the TV studios where the show is filmed.

As a consequence, Mr Baker and his team of riders spent eight days in the saddle, arriving in Kent on Thursday from Brighton to Chatham dockyard. The final leg saw them ride from Chatham into London on Friday.

» Download your free **Kent News iPhone** and **iPad App** available at the Apple App Store

» Follow us on Twitter **@kosmedia** or Facebook **KOS Media**

KCC stages budget consultation live web chat

HAVE your chance to speak direct to the decision makers on Kent County Council this week with a live web chat on Monday (November 16).

The deputy cabinet member for finance, Susan Carey, will be taking part in the online chat from 12.30pm until 1.30pm, alongside the finance team.

It forms part of the six-week consultation to explain the ''impending scale of the county council's budget challenge for next year''.

The council estimates it needs to make £80 million of savings for the 2016/17 budget.

To take part, visit www. kent.gov.uk/budget and follow the links.

For more on the budget, turn to page 14.

MP reveals miscarriage heartache nearly forced her to turn down top job

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

CHATHAM and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch has revealed her desperate desire for a baby after a devastating miscarriage during the general election campaign nearly saw her turn down the job of sports minister when it was offered to her by the prime minister.

In a revealing interview in The Spectator published this week, the Conservative minister – who is now pregnant again and expecting her first child in February with her partner, BBC Radio Kent presenter Steve Ladner – said she opened up with her dilemma to David Cameron.

She explained in the interview: "I said I wasn't sure because I wanted to start a family and I said it so very honestly.

"I said to him I'm 40, I want to start a family, that I'd had a miscarriage during the election and it had changed my priorities on life in general.



INDECISION: Tracey Crouch

"I've worked really hard to be a good MP and it will be difficult to completely stop doing constituency work while on maternity leave but at the same time the first few months of a baby's life are so incredibly precious I will want to spend every moment possible enjoying them.

"One of the things that I learned actually was how little we talk about miscarriage.

"I discovered that some of my closest friends had had miscarriages and hadn't told anybody about it, and it's, you know, it's something that they had to cope with by themselves."

Ms Crouch, who coaches a local girls' football team, replaced Maidstone MP Helen Grant as sports minister after May's election.

She will split her maternity leave with her partner – under new laws introduced by the Coalition – and will become the first Conservative minister ever to go on maternity leave.

Ms Crouch became Chatham MP in the 2010 general election, defeating Labour's Jonathan Shaw.

She then increased her share of the vote in May of this year, polling in excess of 50 per cent of the total votes cast, increasing her total votes by four per cent.



TEAM: Zola and former team mates

Chelsea stars toast Zola's investment

A HOST of Chelsea superstars from the past came out to launched a new cafe in Bromley this week.

Legendary Italian striker Gianfranco Zola teamed up with Roberto Di Matteo, who managed the team to Champions League glory in 2012 and oversaw an FA Cup win, former club skipper Dennis Wise and Ukraine striker-turned-politician Andriy Shevchenko to welcome visitors to the Unico Gelate & Cafe on Monday.

It is a new business venture Mr Zola has invested in alongside co-founders Elena Manfroni and Leonardo Ragazzi.

Zola, voted the club's all time top player, was on hand to dish out samples.

He said: "The reason why Elena, Leonardo and I decided to open Unico was because we're all gelato lovers. My favourite flavour is Magic Box, a pine nut custard gelato with whole toasted pine nuts. We wanted to bring a taste of Italy to Bromley."

Elena Manfroni said: "We were thrilled to welcome so many new customers to Unico for our official launch and we're looking forward to becoming a firm favourite with food lovers."

Among those paying a special visit were players from Bromley Football Club who presented Mr Zola with a shirt.

Princess Anne backs school's advances

THE Princess Royal has launched Benenden School's redevelopment programme in New York.

The royal, who attended the school as a child in the 1960s, was addressing former students who now live in the US, at a private club in Manhattan.

Called the Centenary Vision, the project includes developing a number of state-of-the-art facilities in time for its centenary in 2023.

Headmistress Samantha Price said: ''The Princess Royal's continued support for our development programme is invaluable.

''Our Centenary Vision is an ambitious development programme which will help us to further improve the complete education we offer girls at Benenden, and to ensure they are getting the very best facilities to support an innovative curriculum to let them succeed in the modern world.''

The first stage, costing £7.2m, is called Perfect Pitch and includes an all-weather floodlit sports pitch and pavilion and redeveloped school hall to act as concert hall and place of worship.

Grade I-listed mansion to be register office

THE historic Grade I-listed Danson House in Welling is set to return to the control of Bexley council next year - and become the borough's new register office.

In a move designed to ensure the Georgian building remains open to the public, the council's cabinet will discuss its future when it meets on Tuesday.

It follows lengthy discussions over many months between the council and the Bexley Heritage Trust, which has managed the mansion on the council's behalf since 2004. But the council was forced to withdraw its grant over the next three years, which in turn saw the trust relinquish its grip on the building.

The council is now in discussion with Kent County Council to continue the use of the building for weddings by using it as the new location for the borough's register office.

It is proposed this will relocate to Danson House from the borough's current register office at Sidcup Manor House. The future use of Sidcup Manor House will be reviewed as a consequence.

Major hen farm plans dramatically ditched

PLANS for a major egg farm in Horsmonden have been dramatically dropped this week.

Fridays Ltd, based in Cranbrook, said it had wanted to build the 64,000-hen 'free range' facility on a 32-hectare site at Pullens Farm on the Lamberhurst Road. When fully up and running it would have been producing more than 400,000 eggs a week.

It had attracted opposition from locals in the village amid concerns over the impact on the area. But this week the application lodged with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council was dramatically withdrawn.

No reason has been provided for the decision.

It came just days after Tonbridge-based animal campaign group Animal Aid submitted video footage to the local authority claiming to show scenes of hens in distress at the firm's other facilities.

The group, which had been actively protesting against the hen farm proposals, said more than 2,700 people had called for the plans to be scrapped.

Tunbridge Wells council had been due to rule on the plans before the end of the year.

» Download your free **Kent News iPhone** and **iPad App** available at the Apple App Store

» Follow us on Twitter **@kosmedia** or Facebook **KOS Media**

Grandfather who faced public flogging in emotional reunion

By Rachael Burnett
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



HOME: Mr Andree has been reunited with his wife in Margate

A BRITISH grandfather sentenced to a flogging for breaking Saudi Arabia's strict anti-alcohol laws said he is "humbled" after being reunited with his family in the UK.

Karl Andree, 74, was threatened with a public lashing after he was caught with home-made wine in Jeddah.

His wife lives in Margate.

He was put on a plane to Britain on Tuesday night after being freed from a Saudi prison, where he had been locked up since August last year.

Speaking after a tearful reunion with his family, the grandfather-of-seven said he is looking forward to "rebuilding my life".

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for such incredible support. Who knows if I would have got out of the Saudi jail or escaped 378 lashes in a public flogging without this backing?" he told The Sun.

"I am overwhelmed by the support and am grateful to Prime Minister David Cameron and the Government for stepping in.

"I am truly humbled and will never forget the love and support of so many people in getting me home."

Mr Andree's flogging sentence was dropped after his family launched a campaign for his release on compassionate grounds because his wife Verity is dying of Alzheimer's and is in Britain receiving care.

He had lived in the Middle East for the last 25 years, having worked in the oil industry.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said: "Karl Andree was released from prison hours after my visit to Riyadh on October 28.

"I'm pleased that he has returned home to be reunited with his family, bringing to an end an extremely tough time for him and his family.

"I'm grateful to the Saudi Arabian government for their efforts in ensuring this positive outcome, following our discussions during my visit.

"It's through the strength and breadth of the relationship between our nations that we have been able to overcome a difficult issue like this."

More than 230,000 people signed an online petition calling for the Prime Minister to intervene to stop Mr Andree - who has battled cancer and suffers from asthma - from facing the lashings.

Restaurant is named 'coolest' in the UK

A RESTAURANT in Margate has been named among the top 25 'coolest' in the country.

A table produced by The Times newspaper puts Margate's Hanvert & Found in Margate number six in the list. It is the only Kent eatery to make the top 25.

The paper says of the restaurant: ''It might be small and reasonably priced, but the chef isn't short on culinary ambition.''

Boa constrictor, 6ft, found in popular park

RSPCA officials have rescued a 6ft long boa constrictor after it was found abandoned in a park.

Inspectors were called to assist rangers at Danson Park in Bexleyheath. It has been transferred to a RSPCA reptile centre for specialist care.

The hunt is now on for its owner amid a warning over an increase in exotic pets being dumped.

Whitstable car attack

FOUR teenagers have been charged after paint was thrown over cars in attacks in Whitstable and Herne Bay.

It follows an investigation into the incidents which took place in the two seaside towns between February 25 and July 18.

All are aged 18-19. They have been bailed to appear before Folkestone magistrates next month.

Malawi • South American cichlid • Central American cichlid • Guppy + other live barers • Tetra
Rasbora • Angelfish • Dwarf Angelfish • Lionfish • Foxface • Clownfish • Damsels • Chromis
Butterflies • Gobies • Mandarins • Tangs • Surgeonfish • inverts • soft corals • anemones

Little Fish Shop
Aquatic Centre

Established in 1999, we are now extremely well known for our friendly yet professional customer service and advice. We specialise in providing many types of marine, pond, cold water and tropical fish to fill your aquarium, as well as fish tanks to help you grow your collection!

For all your Aquatic needs:
• Marine • Tropical • Coldwater
• Ponds • Aquariums • Pond Plants
• Glass Fibre Ponds • Pumps
• Liners and much more
Also now available
• Chicken Coops • Rabbit
• Guinea Pig Hutches & Runs

www.littlefishshop.co.uk
42 London Road • Teynham • ME9 9QN
01795 520023
Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm Sunday 10am-4pm

Bideford: 4 day Coach trip £99

Enjoy a wonderful break in Bideford and north Devon for a very special price next spring...

Full details: We arrive on **Friday** afternoon at the lovely 3 star Durrant House hotel to a warm welcome and refreshments. We stay for 3 nights and have trips out on **Saturday** and **Sunday** and return home on Monday.



Durrant House Hotel Bideford ★★★
Modern, spacious hotel with two restaurants, two bars, and a large ballroom with evening entertainment. 125 guest rooms with **full** amenities. Lift.

Departs: Friday 22nd January £99
Price includes: 3 nights hotel with 3-course dinner and full choice breakfast plus all coach travel trips out as shown.
Single Supp £19
Coach departs: Gravesend - Rochester - Chatham - Gillingham - Sittingbourne - Maidstone - then to Bideford
Call to book or see website -
GB TOURS ☎ 0151 652 2222
www.gbtours.com
31 Years of great-value coach trips.
ABTOT Bonded 5076

Amazing Value for £99
- 3-Course dinner each evening
- Complimentary pre-dinner drink
- Entertainment each evening
- Hot and cold buffet breakfast each morning
- Trip to Barnstaple and Bideford on Tuesday
- Trip to Appledore and Atlantic Shopping village on Wednesday
- Afternoon tea Dance on Thursday
- Last night 'Party Night' with optional fancy dress



Durrant House Hotel, Bideford

Charges over £10m Hatton Garden heist are dropped

ONE of the men who was accused of stealing more than £10 million of valuables in the Hatton Garden jewellery raid has had the charges against him dropped.

Paul Reader, 50, of Dartford Road, Dartford, was initially suspected to have been involved in the break-in in London's diamond district over the Easter weekend.

Mr Reader was charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to convert criminal property.

All charges against him have now been abandoned, the Crown Prosecution Service said.

Thieves forced their way into Hatton Garden Safe Deposit after using a drill to bore a hole 20in deep, 10in high and 18in into the vault's wall.



Officers believe they got into the building through a communal entrance before disabling the lift so they could climb down the shaft to the basement.

Four other men face the same charges, which they deny, while four others - including 76-year-old Brian Reader from Dartford - have all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to burgle.

They are awaiting sentencing.

Crouch demands IAAF restores faith in athletics

CHATHAM MP and sports minister Tracey Crouch has described the scandal engulfing athletics as a "dark day for the world of sport".

Russia faces being banned from the Rio 2016 Olympics after an investigation revealed "state-sponsored" doping in one of sport's biggest ever scandals.

An independent commission set up by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has revealed that 1,417 samples were deliberately destroyed on the orders of the director of Russia's drug-testing laboratory - who took cash to cover up positive tests - while there was intimidation of officials by undercover officers from the Russian secret service FSB.

The commission's chairman Richard Pound said Russia should be banned from next year's Olympics, and that London 2012 had been "sabotaged" by the presence of Russian athletes with suspicious doping profiles.

Sebastian Coe, the new president of the sport's governing body the IAAF, has insisted the sport will reform.

Ms Crouch said: "This is a dark day for athletics and the world of sport. Anything that challenges the integrity of sport must be addressed head on with strong sanctions.

"Our anti-doping agency works tirelessly to promote clean sport and we expect nations around the world to have a similar robust approach. Fans and athletes alike must be able to have complete faith that competition is fair."

Nepal trip for charity

A FORMER Gurkha soldier who now serves at the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham is returning to Nepal to raise money for victims of this year's earthquake.

Randip Raj, 47, from Maidstone, will take part in an endurance challenge to raise funds for charity.

Shane Richie lights up

EASTENDERS star Shane Richie switched on Dartford's Christmas lights this weekend.

Star of the Orchard Theatre's pantomime, Dick Whittington, he was due to flick the switch in the High Street yesterday (Saturday) at 5.25pm joined by two of his co-stars Malcolm Lord and Pete Gallagher.

CPRE Kent holds AGM

COUNTRYSIDE campaigning charity CPRE Kent holds its AGM next Friday (November 20) at Lenham Village Hall.

Members and supporters will hear about the charity's latest campaigns to protect Kent's landscapes and building on the Green Belt. The meeting starts at 2pm.

Bid for 007 Aston drive

A RACING champion is auctioning off the chance to be driven around for the day in an Aston Martin Casino Royale - one of only 30 made.

All proceeds will go to the Demelza hospice. Email bids to driver andy.jenkinson@charterhouse-group.com.

Celebrating 25 years of Care & Support
25th Anniversary







Bridge Haven Care Home

avante care & support
'Everyone Matters'

"Living in the village I visit my husband daily at Bridge Haven and see the care and hard work of all the staff."

Bridge Haven care home provides care with compassion for those living with dementia.

The team of attentive, experienced and skilled staff provide 24 hour care in a pleasant, homely environment. Services provided at Bridge Haven include full time residential care, day care and short term respite care called 'My Time' (see *avantemytime.org.uk* for more details).

All rooms at Bridge Haven are bright and cheerful with many bedrooms having en-suite facilities providing relaxation and a sense of well-being.

Other facilities include the 'Snug' – a pub like facility for residents to enjoy and socialise and Gregory's tea room, situated in one of the two attractively laid gardens.

01227 831607 enquiry@avantecare.org.uk

Conyngham Lane, Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5JX @ avantecare.org.uk

We are an approved provider for Kent County Council.

Kent County Council

Top Three Stories



1. Riverside development

Two on shortlist for Rochester plans

2. Rail station upgrades

Video screens installed across network

3. Gas work congestion

Delays after emergency works in Maidstone

The Essential Guide:



...to Dartford Crossing

All the details on the tolls and plans for a third Thames crossing nearby



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: It was high speed spills and thrills at the county's top motor racing circuit - Brands Hatch.

Missed last week's...?

...YOU can read the paper online via our e-edition at **www.KentNews.co.uk**

DON'T worry if you struggle to pick up a copy of Kent on Sunday, or missed a copy.

You can access our extensive archive, online, through our website kentnews.co.uk

You can read the full paper, download articles you particularly enjoy, and take a walk back through time with an archive which stretches back years.

And the best of it all, is that it's all free to access.

Plus, don't forget, we provide a full news service throughout the week, to supplement your weekend read.



follow us on Twitter **@kosmedia** and on Facebook.com/**KentonSunday**

Top Three Blogs



1. Downton's gone - hurray!

Let's not kid ourselves - it ended on a low

2. Give lorries their own lane

Motorist fumes over their lane movements

3. The alcohol dilemma

Is booze the cause of violence or an excuse?

Results of the *KoS* Online Poll

Has 5p charge for plastic bags changed your habits?

1. Yes, I now carry bags with me - 85 %
2. Yes, I shop more online - 0 %
3. No, I just shell out for the bags - 15 %
4. No, I only shop in small stores - 0 %




RARE PRODUCTIONS
Youth Theatre Group
01767 681049
8 - 21 Years old
BUGSY MALONE
OPEN AUDITIONS
The Brook Theatre
Old Town Hall, Chatham
Monday 16th Nov 2015
5.00pm - 6.00pm (8-12 year olds)
6.00pm - 7.00pm (13-21 year olds)
Chatham Grammar School for Girls
Rainham Rd, Chatham
Saturday 21st Nov 2015
2.00pm - 3.30pm (8-12 year olds)
3.30pm - 5.00pm (13-21 year olds)
You only need attend one audition
A show fee is payable by all successful applicants



EFFORT: The school, which used to be based in the former home of Charles Dickens, says it remains committed to seeing its students achieve their potential

Public school to drop pupils from GCSEs to boost league table score

Chris Murphy on how £4,000-a-term school says some students may end up sitting no GCSE exams

A TOP public school is warning parents their children will not be entered for GCSE exams if they don't work hard in class and could end up sitting no exams at all.

Gad's Hill in Higham, was once based in the former home of the author Charles Dickens, and is now a private school costing just under £4,000 a term.

But its head and governors say they are "frustrated" by its GCSE results being "damaged disproportionately" by a small number of students not making the effort.

According to the league tables for 2014, the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C or equivalents including both English and mathematics, is 60 per cent – leaving it 46th in the county.

In comparison, state grammar schools score between 90-100 per cent. Now, the school says it is prepared to take drastic steps to ensure it rises back up the tables.

In a letter sent home to parents, the head David Craggs explained the steps the school was now taking.

It said: "This year the governors too feel frustrated that the school's overall efforts are damaged disproportionately by a small number of students. As such, the board have agreed that the school take a more robust approach to these students and their entry for GCSE examinations."

It adds that if teachers feel a child is not putting in the work during term time, they will now be excluded from taking exams. And if they then face not securing the five GCSEs needed for the league table benchmark, they will "be withdrawn from the GCSE series in their entirety".

That means parents could end up paying tens of thousands of pounds for their education only for their child to emerge empty handed.

The school says pupils are out if their "approach to GCSE preparation is woefully inadequate and contrary to the advice and support provided by the school".

This includes missing homework deadlines, not going to after-school booster sessions or poor effort during class.

The head says in the letter: "None of this should come as a surprise to either a student or their parents as staff will contact parents and advise them of detentions, lack of homework or other non-productive activity."

But, remarkably, it appears this is far from unusual in today's pressurised education system where schools need to perform well in order to attract students or face tough sanctions.

John Walder, the National Union of Teachers' divisional secretary for Kent, said he was not shocked at the move, adding: "The league table is what it is all about.

"If the school, which is a business, chooses to take this particular decision I don't suppose there is much anyone can do.

"I suppose it could be actionable in the civil courts, but that would be between parents and the school.

"This is national education writ large. The existence of a league table is the thing that drives an awful lot of what happens to kids in schools across the country.

"Because going up and down the table is the be-all and end-all for schools, head teachers and governors will do all sorts of things to ensure their schools go up.

"I have heard stories that certain schools will arrange for certain kids to be absent during Ofsted visits and of course exam entries.

"The kids they know will let them down will not be there.

"The leagues tables are supposed to generate improving standards. What it actually generates is displacement behaviour, which are ways of going up the tables without driving up standards."

He said he is now concerned for his union members teaching there if they are somehow blamed for a fall in standards and could lose their jobs.

Peter Read is an independent education consultant in Gravesend and regularly KoS columnist. He said: "I am really surprised by this. Clearly there are children at this school that they don't want in their exams to improve their results, to put it brutally.

"But they want the parents to keep spending the money. If parents want that sort of education and their children fit the bill, then obviously it is a good deal. Otherwise, it is money down the drain.

"It comes down to the fact the parents have a contract with the school and if the school excludes children from the exams because they are not working hard enough, the parents do not have a right to complain."



STEPS: Head David Craggs

He added: "What this letter says is that they want their GCSE results to show off the school at its best rather than acting in the interests of the children."

In the latest Parental Handbook, the school said: "Gad's Hill is not an academic hot-house or exam factory. We want pupils to be well qualified and we will work hard with them and their parents to make sure that our children get good academic results.

"However, we recognise that success in life is not solely due to any academic qualifications gained but also often a reflection of personal qualities. Employers value confidence, maturity, self-reliance, teamwork, the ability to get on with people, communicate effectively and to look the part."

The headmaster at Gad's Hill, Mr Craggs, told KoS: "Following on from an information evening I recently sent a letter to Year 11 parents detailing the school's policy on GCSE examinations. At the end of that letter, I invited any parents who had questions or concerns with its content to contact either myself or the head of senior school – no parents have contacted us to express any concerns, indeed the few comments that we did receive were very supportive of our approach.

"I am proud of our students' exam successes and the majority go on to study A-levels at local grammar schools or secure a place at their chosen school or college and most eventually go on to university. Most people will accept that in order to do these things then students will need to achieve good GCSE results."

He added: "Our form tutors are in constant contact with parents in relation to students' progress and we invite those children not achieving their personal targets to weekly grade booster sessions in the relevant subjects.

"This robust approach to GCSE examination entry is one which I hope and don't foresee that we will have to action too often – it is certainly a last resort – when all other interventions have been exhausted.

"Ensuring our children are happy and reach their potential, both academically and personally, remains Gad's priority and I trust the hard work and commitment of our teachers and students continues to be reflected in our exam results and their overall successes."

Mums fume after cancer vaccine link not proven

But they vow to keep up the fight after their daughters were left with a rare condition. **Emma Youle** finds out more



ANGER: Christina Berry-McIntosh and daughter Ellen. Pictured below are Lisa Stanley and daughter Deanna

MOTHERS say the voices of hundreds of ill teenagers are being ignored after a European review found no link between a vaccine to prevent cervical cancer and rare syndromes that have destroyed their daughters' health.

Local mums Christina Berry-McIntosh and Lisa Stanley both had healthy and happy 12-year-old daughters before they were given the HPV vaccination at schools in Kent.

Since then the girls have suffered debilitating conditions which have stolen their teenage years, as Kent on Sunday revealed in a special report in September.

The government insists the vaccine is safe but hundreds of other parents across the country also believe their daughters' health has been harmed by the jab.

Now a European Medicines Agency (EMA) review has found the available evidence does not support a link between two rare syndromes reported in sick girls and the vaccine.

"I'm very disappointed," said Mrs Berry-McIntosh, whose daughter Ellen has one of the conditions. "The EMA came to its conclusion very, very quickly, I don't feel that they did enough investigating. No attention is being paid to the voices of the girls, none whatsoever."

Wedding and party decoration business owner Mrs Stanley said: "I've completely lost faith in the medical system and all the people that hold these enquiries. So many kids are ill from having the injection and they all have the same symptoms, it's just another cover-up."

In July the EMA announced it would carry out a review to explore any link between the vaccine and two rare and disabling conditions called postural tachycardia syndrome (PoTS) and chronic regional pain syndrome (CRPS).

Ellen, now aged 18 and wheelchair-bound, was recently diagnosed with PoTS following years of ill health after having the jab at Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs in 2010.

She vomits almost every day, has muscle spasms, brain fog, urinary urgency, clicky joints, chronic pain in her ribs and has had to defer her place at university due to her health.

Her mother, an admin manager from Birchington, said: "The EMA is saying that these conditions would happen at this age anyway and yet there is no medical provision there for these conditions if they just casually happen at this age.

"Basically the EMA treated the investigation like it's treated the girls – not very seriously."

During the review, EMA scientists looked at published research, data from clinical trials and reports of suspected side effects from patients and healthcare professionals across Europe.

Its findings, published on November 5, showed that overall rates of PoTS and CRPS in vaccinated girls did not differ from expected rates in girls of that age group.

But campaigners argue research data does not recognise the many girls who report similar symptoms after the vaccine but wait years for a diagnosis.

Mrs Stanley's daughter Deanna started vomiting within hours of having the jab in January 2013 and 24 hours later she was in intensive care seriously ill. She has suffered from chronic fatigue and pain ever since and sometimes struggles to stand up in the mornings, but is still without a definite diagnosis.

"Each time the authorities say there's not a problem then they don't have to deal with it," said her mum, from Margate. "If we say there's nothing happening then we haven't got to deal with all these girls that are suddenly ill. They're just put back in the system and told to go and live with it. There's no cure. I know for a fact, 100 per cent, that my daughter is ill from the injection. I'd put my entire finances, beliefs and everything on it.

"When people talk to me now they think I'm anti-vaccine and I'm not, because Deanna actually had the injection. I'm not anti-vaccine, I'm just anti this vaccine."

Government health agencies insist the vaccine is safe and say data gathered from eight million doses given in the UK since 2008 has not raised any safety signals.

The jab's advertised health benefits are also significant. The vaccine protects against two types of the human papilloma virus (HPV) that cause 70 per cent of cases of cervical cancer.

The EMA said: "The review recognised that more than 80million girls and women worldwide have now received these vaccines, and in some European countries they have been given to 90 per cent of the age group recommended for vaccination.

"Use of these vaccines is expected to prevent many cases of cervical cancer – cancer of the neck of the womb which is responsible for tens of thousands of deaths in Europe each year - and various other cancers and conditions caused by HPV.

"The benefits of HPV vaccines therefore continue to outweigh their risks. The safety of these vaccines, as with all medicines, will continue to be carefully monitored."

But for the local families and hundreds like them the quest for answers goes on.

"The fight will continue, we will keep petitioning," said Mrs Berry-McIntosh. "I'm keeping in touch with MP Roger Gale and hopefully he will get it brought up in the House of Commons. We owe it to every other child who is going to have this vaccine. We owe it to our children who have already had the vaccine and been affected by it."

■ **The Association for HPV Vaccine Injured Daughters is campaigning nationally on the issue. Contact Freda Birrell on jeanfreda8@btinternet.com or 07752 945 545.**

ELLEN BERRY-MCINTOSH

BEFORE she had the HPV vaccine in 2010 Ellen Berry-McIntosh was a fit young girl who loved to swim and had represented Kent competitively.

After the jab her arm swelled up and she began to suffer virus after virus. It affected her breathing and she would become tight-chested.

By 2011 she was going blue, shaking on the poolside, and getting disqualified from races for shaking on the block.

By the time Ellen, now aged 18, took her GCSEs she was using a cane and she is now unable to walk unaided and has to use a wheelchair. She vomits every day, has severe gastric problems, and is often dizzy among a long list of symptoms.



Ellen has deferred her university place to study fine art due to her health problems.

DEANNA STANLEY-CALDWELL

A COUPLE of months before Deanna Stanley-Caldwell, 16, had the HPV vaccination in January 2013 she swam a mile.

Just hours after having the jab the otherwise healthy 12-year-old's arm turned purple and she started vomiting.

Within 24 hours Deanna, from Margate, was seriously ill in intensive care.

She has since had pneumonia twice, suffers from extreme tiredness and crippling pain in her ribs.

''She's got chronic fatigue, chronic pain, if she can stand up for the morning she's lucky,'' said her mother, Lisa.

The impact has been life-changing. Deanna was unable to attend school for two years and could not complete GCSEs. She is now struggling to attend college.



Established 1981

SupaGlazing Limited

Over 58,000 customers!

Introducing the...

Supa Diamond

A rated, **ANY** size, **ANY** number of openers, White UPVC

DOUBLE GLAZED

4 WINDOWS **£1,512.00** inc VAT

5 WINDOWS **£1,890.00** inc VAT

6 WINDOWS **£2,268.00** inc VAT

7 WINDOWS **£2,646.00** inc VAT

TRIPLE GLAZED

4 WINDOWS **£1,891.00** inc VAT

5 WINDOWS **£2,364.00** inc VAT

6 WINDOWS **£2,836.00** inc VAT

7 WINDOWS **£3,309.00** inc VAT

All inclusive of fitting, survey, guarantee & includes Pilkington Energikare saving glass. Did you know triple glazing only saves an extra 0.5% on average which is about £3 per year.

The choice is yours!



A Rated Windows

Pilkington **Optiwhite**™ (outer pane)

Argon gas filling with warm edge spacer

Pilkington **K Glass**™ **OW** (inner pane)

A Rated Windows

Our Sale Now On!

...Kent's leading double glazing manufacturer



20% OFF ALL Conservatories & Orangeries



Convert your conservatory into a usable all year round sun-porch with the SupaLite tiled roof system



An extra **£100 off** on production of this advert*

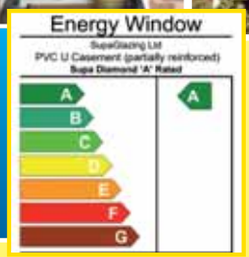


Celebrating over 34 years of beautiful windows...Guaranteed

0% Finance representative available upon request subject to status







Don't just glaze it, Supaglaze it!

All of our installers are CRB checked.

Hurry! Offers end 24th November

Knight Road, Strood (opposite Morrisons)

01634 294 696

Open 6 days a week
Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm

2 Roman Square, Sittingbourne **01795 422 877**
13 Lowfield Street, Dartford **01322 290 525**
20 Hight Street, Rochester (next to the Victoria & Bull Hotel) **01634 826 238**

AS HEARD ON heart 103.1 102.8

MasterCard VISA FENSA REGISTERED COMPANY

Profile: BS7950 BS7413
Door Lock: BS3621
Toughened Glass: BSEN12150-1

Factory awarded British Safety Council Safety Award: Every Year Since 1984

Head office and factories at Deacon Trading Centre, Knight Road, Strood.

International Safety Awards 2011 WINNER

Like us on Facebook **www.supaglazing.com** Follow us on Twitter

*1 per order. Terms and conditions apply. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request. E&OE. 58266

Mercedes-Benz

Service Care for your Sprinter, Vito & Citan



Less Uncertainty, Cost and Hassle. More Flexibility, Service and Care.

We know it's important for you to be able to plan financially - and that unexpected servicing costs are something you'd rather do without.

It's a genuinely affordable option, with prices starting at just **£19.20 inc VAT** a month for three services.

What's included:

Routine service labour costs	■
Routine service parts	■
Routine service lubricants	■
Transferable to new owner when vehicle sold (if Plan paid for upfront)	■
Emergency road side assistance	△
Recovery to nearest Mercedes-Benz authorised repairer	△
Fast track preferential authorisation and processing	■
Monthly paid contract	■
Prepaid contract	■
Provision of replacement vehicle	△
Available on any vehicle age	■

■ Standard cover
△ Available free, for the first three years from registration date. For any vehicles registered after 1 Oct 2012, cover is available for up to 30 years under MobiloVan UK and associated terms and conditions.

Call us today and ask for Andy Clack or find out more by visiting our website...

www.sparshatts.co.uk
0844 396 1122

Ashford Dartford Sittingbourne Tonbridge

Under attack: How can County Hall survive yet more cuts?

November 25 is going to be hugely significant to local authorities across the UK. But tension is growing across Kent as to just how much the Tory-led council is fighting its corner against its party leaders in Westminster. **Tom Pyman** reports

KENT County Council leader Paul Carter has been slammed by local opposition leaders for not doing enough to stop cuts to local government funding.

Chancellor of the exchequer George Osborne announces his spending review on November 25, with local government budgets expected to be slashed by a further 30 per cent.

As a result, KCC is likely to receive a significant reduction in funding from central government of £33 million.

Already having been forced to slash millions from its budgets while costs of such key areas as care provision rise, the future is looking increasingly bleak for a number of services.

County Hall has recently launched a six week budget consultation campaign to give residents the opportunity to have their say on how they want their money spent.

But the devastating impact of the cuts from Whitehall has left many bitterly disappointed across the political divide.

Councillor Gordon Cowan, leader of the Labour group on the council, told KoS: "Yet again George Osborne has let us down.

"When he became chancellor he said he would have got rid of the deficit and local authorities breathed a sigh of relief, but what we are expecting now is for this austerity to go on until 2020, which is a further five years on top of what he anticipated in 2010.

"If this level of cuts continues I believe there will be some councils which will go bust, although I don't think KCC will be one of them.

"The council say they haven't got rid of frontline services, which is true, but they have reduced investment year-on-year which has put those services under great strain.

"There will come a point though where they will have to go and it will be the tax payer that suffers.

"I think there are a number of children's services at risk but if cuts continue all services could be badly affected."

Many fear the continuing cuts are more ideologically driven - potentially with a view to forcing councils to privatise some previously publicly-run services in order to cut costs.

The prime minister was embroiled in a row with the leader of his own local authority, Oxford County Council, earlier this week, who criticised Mr Cameron for allowing further cuts to local government budgets.

Councillors in Kent said they admired the way Oxford's Ian Hudspeth stood up to the prime minister, and have called on Kent's Tory leader Paul Carter to do the same.

Cllr Cowan added: "When Labour was in control, Carter would get up and tell us that we weren't spending enough money on services, but now his own government have cut the budget by 40 per cent and effectively kicked them up the backside.

"We were told the deficit would be cleared by 2015 but they have failed badly and it's the people who are being dealt the biggest blow.

"Carter should be standing up to his government, banging the table and saying enough is enough.

"He is not fighting hard enough to get the funding required."

Trudy Dean, leader of the Liberal Democrat group, agreed.

She said: "As far as I can see this is a country-wide issue, councils are not being targeted depending on their political party, but the question is how far a Tory council is prepared to stand up and oppose the cuts from central government?

"Despite being chairman of the County Councils Network (CCN), we have not seen very much fighting talk from Mr Carter and we don't think he is fighting our cause on a national level as fiercely as he should.

"It's anybody's guess where cuts will be made but clearly there will be huge pressures on social services, where the budget is already overspent, but I think services to the elderly will be a particular pressure point.

"We're going through a process of trying to provide a better quality of life for people in their own homes but you fear for funding there, and the demand for residential homes is increasing faster than expected and so there is an overspend in that budget."

Ukip leader Roger Latchford, head of the opposition, declined to comment.

Cllr Carter hit back at the criticism by saying it was beyond his control but described the scale of the cuts as "draconian".

He told KoS: "We need to wait and see what the outcome is. Local government has lobbied very, very hard on the essential need to give us a reasonable amount for social care and supporting the elderly but this is beyond our control.

"Our job is to lobby and articulate the impact of draconian cuts, particularly in terms of social care.

"We have done that significantly in recent months and we will see whether or not we have been listened to."





FOCUS: All eyes will be on chancellor George Osborne as he unveils the scale of the cuts for our local authorities later this month in his spending review. Picture: Geert Vanden Wijngaert. Meanwhile Paul Carter, right, has defended his position on Tory reductions

The unitary Medway Council is facing similar pain. Labour group leader there, Vince Maple, said local authorities were suffering something of an image problem.

He told KoS: "Local government may not be as high profile as other departments but the reality is for communities it is vital in terms of delivering social care, education, infrastructure on our roads, waste collection, all these issues which have a huge impact on people's quality of life.

"In Medway, local government carries out more than 130 services, so if the funding continues on this downward trajectory, they won't be able to even meet their statutory requirements.

"Clearly part of the conundrum for local authorities is that some of the most valued services are the most expensive.

"Children and adults relying on social care, for example, may be a tiny proportion compared to things like people having their bins collected, but what happens to those children and adults if the services are not there?

"Everything is at risk because of this draconian attack on local government."









THIS MONTHS SPECIAL OFFERS

Windsor Vanity Unit and Basin
550 wide Retail price £170
Our Price £88
650 wide Retail price £197
Our Price £99
750 wide Retail price £280
Our Price £136

WC Unit
550x300 Retail £142
Our Price £70
600x300 Retail £152
Our Price £71
600x330 Retail £162
Our Price £79

BTW Unit
500x300 Retail £131
Our Price £62.50
550x300 Retail £142
our price £70
600x300 Retail £152
Our Price £71
600x330 Retail £162
Our Price £79

BTW Wall Pan
including Soft Close Seat Retail £119
Our Price £48



Towel Warmers
800x500x22mm Retail £129
Our Price £45
1200x500x22mm Retail £146
Our Price £55
1600x500x22mm Retail £196
Our Price £85
Chrome Straight/Angled Rad Valves Retail £23
Our Price £9

Cloakroom Cabinet & Square Basin
Retail £126
Our Price £60

- Family Run Business
- Trading 45 Years
- Excellent quality & service
- Up to date showroom
- New Displays
- Ample Parking
- Wheelchair Access
- Displays regularly updated
- Suppliers to builders, hotels and the public

morris & turner
BATHROOM AND FIREPLACE WAREHOUSE

Third Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 0AD | T: 01634 813813 | E: sales@morrisandturner.co.uk | W: www.morrisandturner.co.uk
CHATHAM BRANCH Opening Hours: 08:15 – 17:00 Monday – Friday 09:15- 17:00 Saturday | Closed Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

CHANCELLOR NEEDS TO GIVE EBBSFLEET GARDEN CITY DOUBLE THE MONEY, SAYS MP





DARTFORD MP Gareth Johnson (right) says funding for the ambitious Ebbsfleet Garden City project needs to double if it is to meet its targets.

Chancellor George Osborne pledged £200m to the project, which aims to provide 11,000 homes, back in 2014, but, according to Mr Johnson, another £180m is needed for the garden city to deliver on its promises.

A target of building between 3,000 and 5,000 homes over the next five years has been made by Michael Cassidy, chairman of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, which has full planning powers for the project.

Tory MP Mr Johnson said: "I met with the chancellor to put my weight behind the bid that has been put in by the urban development corporation.

"It argues that if you want 5,000 homes over the next five years, you need £380m of infrastructure in place, because what we need is the right medical provisions, transport links and schools to make it a viable project.

"The chancellor has always been very responsive to it, and we'll get an announcement soon as to what degree of support we will receive.

"It's like a sliding scale; if we get the full £380m we will have all the houses with the right infrastructure to go with it, but there will simply be very little building done if the money isn't made available."

He added: "We need more housing but it's not a case of doing that at any cost; suitable infrastructure needs to be in place as well.

"We don't want a dormitory town of one large council estate, we want it to have the required facilities to function as a garden city."

Mr Osborne revealed the plans for the project during an appearance on the BBC's Andrew Marr Show in March 2014, hailing its "fantastic infrastructure" as a key asset to the scheme.

Robin Cooper, chief executive of Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, echoed Mr Johnson's views that not receiving the full funding would be detrimental to the project's ambitions.

He said: "We haven't had any capital funding as yet, just a small amount of money to pay staff.

"The chancellor said £200m would be made available for the project and in simple terms, if we get the full £380m we can deliver 11,000 homes in about 10 years.

"If we get a lesser sum, we would only be able to deliver a smaller number of houses.

"I think the £200m figure was a best guess at the time, but now we have done quite a bit of work to look at the needs of the site and the right infrastructure needs to be provided.

"For example, you could only build another 40 houses in terms of what is available for sewage works. After you've connected 40 houses, that's it.

"We need to invest in this kind of infrastructure because you simply can't live in a house when you can't get rid of sewage.

"We've now got some more defined costs about what we need to do.

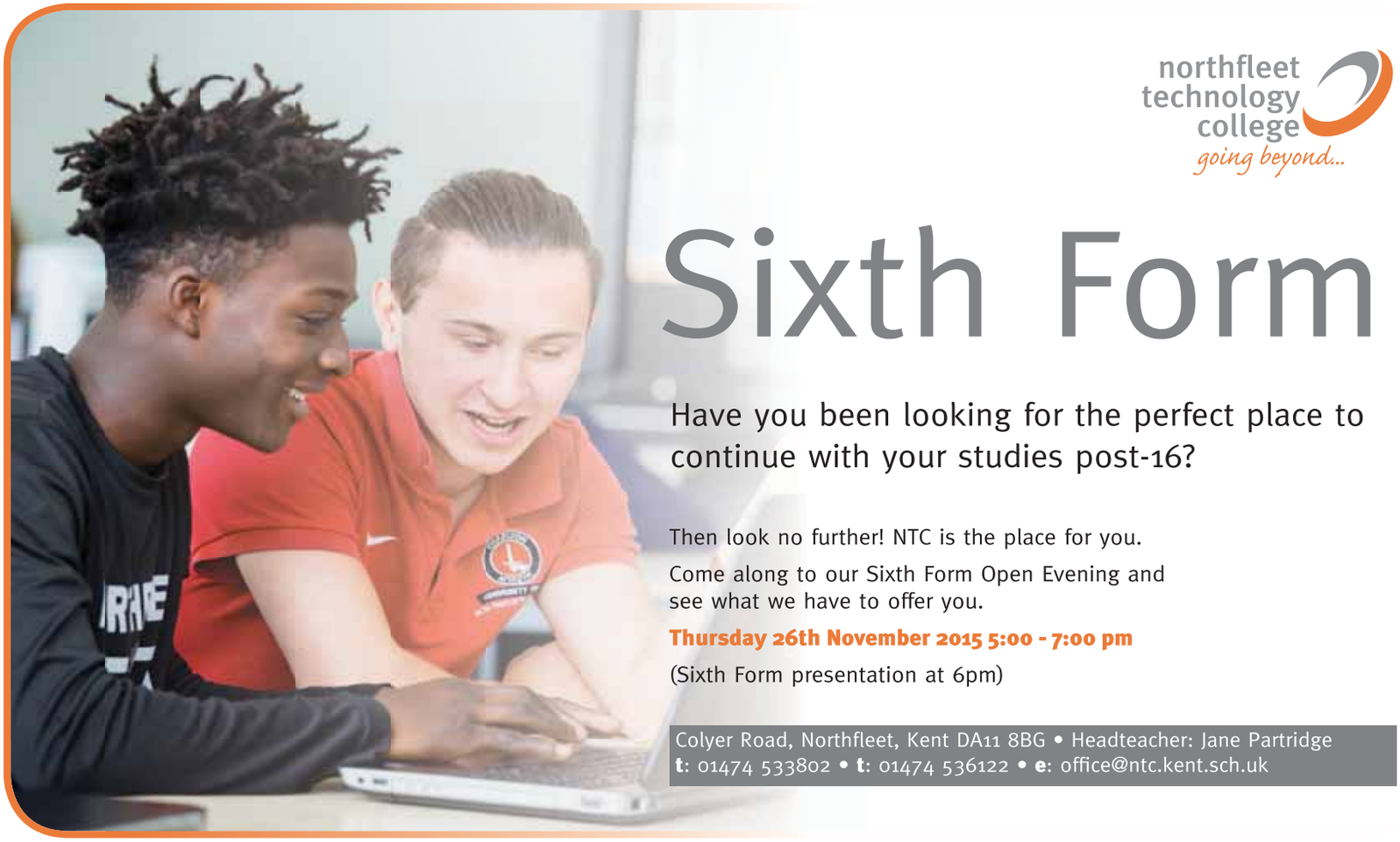
"Only 350 homes have been built in the last 14 years, and that's a pretty slow pace by anyone's standards, so to achieve our aim of building 1,000 every year we need more investment in infrastructure.

"I haven't discussed it with the chancellor personally but we have put forward a lot of options for him to look at.

"I know he's very keen on the project so hopefully we'll get some good news at the end of the month."

The primary location for the houses is expected to be the site of the Eastern Quarry, just south of Swanscombe, but there will also be development on the former Northfleet substation near the A2.

A decision will be made at the chancellor's spending review, which is due on November 25 in which the funding for local councils (see previous pages) will also be revealed.





ROYAL VICTORIA PLACE
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

A full set of fixed teeth in just one day







"I love my new smile, I cannot express my gratitude enough!"

Jacqueline H

Do you or someone close to you have poor fitting false teeth, hopelessly decayed teeth or suffer from gum disease? We understand the frustrations people face, living with these issues, affecting your self-confidence, not being able to enjoy your favourite foods, and re-occurring pain and infection.

With our revolutionary alternative to dentures, missing or loose teeth, you can have fixed dental implants and teeth in just one day. Giving you the smile you've dreamt of, quickly and simply.

If you need all your teeth replaced, or just your lower or upper teeth, there is no more need for painful treatment that drags on for months, no more need for false teeth. Just a beautiful smile – all in one day. Our 'Smile in a Day' treatment will make you feel happy once more and lets you say goodbye to the bad teeth ruining your life.

- A full set of teeth replaced in one day
- Dental implants and fixed teeth placed in one day
- Our clinical lead is General Dental Council registered Specialist Periodontist, Dr Michael Zybutz BDS, MSc (USA), Cert. Perio (USA)
- Almost all patients can be treated without the need for bone grafting, even if you have been told you have no bone for implants
- Finance options available

Sound too good to be true?

Visit our website or call today to arrange a FREE no obligation consultation.

Call 01303 802 109

TDC Implant Centres

www.smileinaday.co.uk

AACD American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry
ACCREDITED MEMBER



FOCUS: The John Lewis Christmas TV advert this year was produced in co-operation with Age UK and aims to shine a spotlight on loneliness for the elderly during the festive season

Fresh call to keep an eye out on the elderly during festive season

Luke May asks why it really could be a case of life and death for the old to stay warm during the winter

IT WOULD be easy to forget we are still in the middle of autumn were we just to use our senses; the weather has been unseasonably mild and the TV channels are now crammed with advertisement for Christmas.

But, as ever, the temperatures are expected to drop soon and with it the traditional concerns for the elderly - struggling to keep warm and afford steep energy bills, while often fighting the perils of loneliness.

This year, however, has seen the focus on the plight of the aged put under the spotlight courtesy of the eagerly anticipated festive advert for department store John Lewis.

Its 'Man on the Moon' advert aims to highlight the plight of many elderly people who feel cut off and isolated during the festive season; and face Christmas and the winter alone.

With more people now living longer and a rise in the number of pensioners, the problem is only set to get worse before it gets better.

Produced in conjunction with elderly care campaigners Age UK, it supports its 'No one should have no one' campaign. It comes after some 400,000 people over 65 last year expressed their concerns over being alone this Christmas.

Age UK's Maidstone office currently provides care for more than 2,000 elderly people in the borough.

The number of people expected to be using the service next Christmas could rise by 1,000.

It is once again urging everyone to be aware of the challenges facing the elderly and the additional support they need at this time of year.

Chief executive for Age UK Maidstone, Paul Coles, explained the range of support older people can receive, in connection to the national campaign.

He said: "Help ranges from getting the shopping to making sure they're eating warm meals and keeping the heating on.

"We also take part in the west Kent befriending service, run by volunteers.

"The free service caters to the needs of the client, so if someone is struggling to get outside and is feeling isolated, the volunteer can help reintegrate them with the outside world. It's the little things that keep their health up and make sure they don't end up in hospital."

Care homes have also provided support for older people who had previously felt isolated.

The Abbeyfield Kent Society, encouraged the public to help support older people as they begin to feel isolated this winter.

Head of care at the charity, Jill Redman,said: "We have supported thousands of older people, many of whom have told us how isolated they were and how they dreaded Christmas before moving into out homes.

"While it is wonderful that we can provide comfort and a happy future for our own residents, it's just a small part of what needs to be done.

"Reaching out to your older neighbours or relatives who don't have people around them and creating friendships and bonds within the community.

"Whether you ask them in for a cup of tea, stop in the street for a chat or write an extra Christmas card, it's easy to incorporate into your daily routine.

> **"For an older or ill person the cold can cause a higher risk of a stroke and heart attack. Even a short time in the cold, inside or out, can have a lasting effect."**
>
> **Paul Coles,**
> Age UK Maidstone

"An hour or two a week may not seem like much, but it can make the world of difference to an older person who feels as though they have no one."

Many people struggle to heat their homes during the colder months. Estimates from an Age UK report suggest up to 4.5million older people in the UK are in fuel poverty.

Age UK estimates cold homes contribute to illness and health problems which ultimately cost the NHS around £1.36bn. Winter illnesses such as the flu and viruses also take their toll against the vulnerable.

According to the Kent Public Health Observatory, the number of deaths caused as a direct result of winter complications in Kent dropped to 655 across 2014/2015, from 933 in 2012/2013.

The situation this year is set to be exacerbated by concerns over the now creaking NHS and pressure in our hospitals during what is traditionally the busiest time of the year for health professionals.

The NHS is currently running a 'stay well this winter' campaign, which visited Chatham's Pentagon Centre on November 6 and 7.

The campaign had a particular focus on caring for old people, giving out information on how to get the flu jab if eligible.

It also reminded people to pick up prescription medicines before pharmacies close on Christmas Eve.

One service offered by Age UK in Maidstone has reportedly freed up 180 bed days between April and September this year – seen as vital to preventing what is known as 'bed blocking' when elderly and vulnerable patients cannot be sent home amid fears they will struggle to cope on their own.

Mr Coles explained: "We can pick clients up from the hospital and take them home, and then help them settle in.

"Rather than leaving people at their door, we can check they've got the heating on and that they have food available.

"Providing this service has resulted in less people being readmitted to hospital. Every year we hear about the strain put on the NHS during the winter, it has become expected.

"If a client is in the early stages of illness we recommend they visit their GP, who may be able to deal with it then, rather than waiting to visit a hospital.

"There are also courses available to help prepare you in case of any slips or trips, particularly during colder weather where there may be ice."

The weather has a big impact.

"When the temperature drops," Mr Coles adds, "this causes your veins and arteries to narrow, which increases your blood pressure.

"For an older or already ill person this can cause a higher risk of a stroke and heart attack. Even a short time in the cold, outdoors or indoors, can have a lasting effect."

Anyone born before 1953 is eligible for a 'Winter Fuel Payment' which could see savings of £100 to £300 tax-free.

Mr Coles from Age UK Maidstone explained some of the support available to keep warm and healthy this winter. He said: "As well as services where we can check people are keeping their heating on, there is also a text service available. People will be able to receive texts if the temperature inside their home drops below 18 degrees.

"For clients with less than £16,000 a year coming in. We can install draft excluders and radiator panels for free, to keep their homes well insulated, however we only have a limited number of these to last through until March.

"We also recommend people spend their winter fuel payment on heating, rather than giving it to family members. I am sure families would be happier knowing that their older relatives are warm in their homes.

"People should not be sitting in the cold for fear of getting into debt."

For Age UK, visit ageuk.org.uk.



Bagpuss and pals in museum adventure

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



AFTER an updated version of The Clangers proved a hit, and Bagpuss remains one of the nation's most enduring and best-loved characters, the work of creators Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin will form the basis of a major exhibition in London next year.

While the bright lights of Hollywood sees tens of millions spent on epic spectaculars, Peter Firmin and Oliver Postgate conquered the small screen in Britain with an avalanche of eternal childhood favourites all created in an era before computer generated imagery.

In a farm building in Blean, near Canterbury, the duo came up with and produced classics like The Clangers, Bagpuss, Pogles' Wood, Noggin the Nog and Ivor the Engine through their production company Smallfilms.

Most were filmed in a former pig shed converted into a make-shift studio.

Now a major retrospective for Smallfilms' cult creations takes place between March 19 and October 9 at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green.

Free to get in, the show will go behind the scenes of their incredible work and even feature some films not publicly seen in decades.

The late Oliver Postgate's voice and Peter Firmin's puppets and artwork became cornerstones of 20th century British culture and their quirky and inventive programmes shaped the childhood memories of millions, the museum said.



Exhibition curator Alice Sage said: "We all hold a special place in our hearts for one or more of Smallfilms' creations. Beyond telling marvellous, captivating stories, Peter Firmin and Oliver Postgate's work encouraged children to look at the world with curiosity. Oliver's distinctive voice as narrator never spoke down to their young audience, and they weren't afraid of dealing with com-

Exclusive tile collection



CAF Ceramics & Stone Ltd

Tiles to inspire

Units 5 2M Trade Park Beddow Way Aylesford Kent ME20 7BT | Tile Showroom: 01622 717107 | e: info@cafceramics.co.uk | www.cafceramics.co.uk

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO A CHILD'S LIFE?

Place 2Be

Train towards becoming a child counsellor with Place2Be

Place2Be's Level 3 Certificate* gives you the opportunity to develop your counselling and therapeutic play skills for working with children and young people.

Our training is:

- **Practical:** drawing on our 21 years' experience of working in schools
- **Accredited** by the Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body (CPCAB)
- **A rewarding** experience: graduates can access a clinical placement in a Place2Be school gaining meaningful experience of working with children and young people
- **Weekly training** will take place in Medway every Friday for 15 weeks starting 15 January 2016

To find out more visit www.place2be.org.uk/level3 or call us on 020 7923 5558

*Successful applicants must have completed a Level 2 Award or have gained similar experience and will need to attend Place2Be Taster Day (next date 20 November).

Registered charity numbers 1040756 and SCO38649



LEGENDARY: Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin at work on the original Clangers. And, left, the museum displays (pictures: Smallfilms and Four Corners Books); and Mr Firmin as he is today (picture: ADY KERRY)

MADE IN KENT

THE very heart of Smallfilms has long since been Blean. It was here the duo created their masterworks and where both lived,

Mr Firmin continues to live in the same house - which features the window so memorably used as the shop widow in the opening credits of Bagpuss.

Indeed, his daughter Emily was Bagpuss' owner in the show.

She is now an artist living and working in nearby Whitstable.

Mr Postgate's son, Dan, inherited his share of the Smallfilms empire when his father died, aged 83, at a nursing home in Broadstairs in December 2008.

Dan Postgate, who also now lives in Whitstable, remains in close contact with Peter Firmin and the two worked together on the revival of The Clangers which aired on the CBeebies channel recently. Mr Postgate worked on the scripts, while Mr Firman was executive producer, overseeing some of the designs of the modern day creatures.

plex ideas in a magical way.

"The stories have stood the test of time. As well as looking at how these programmes were made, we also hope to capture the spirit of these timeless gems."

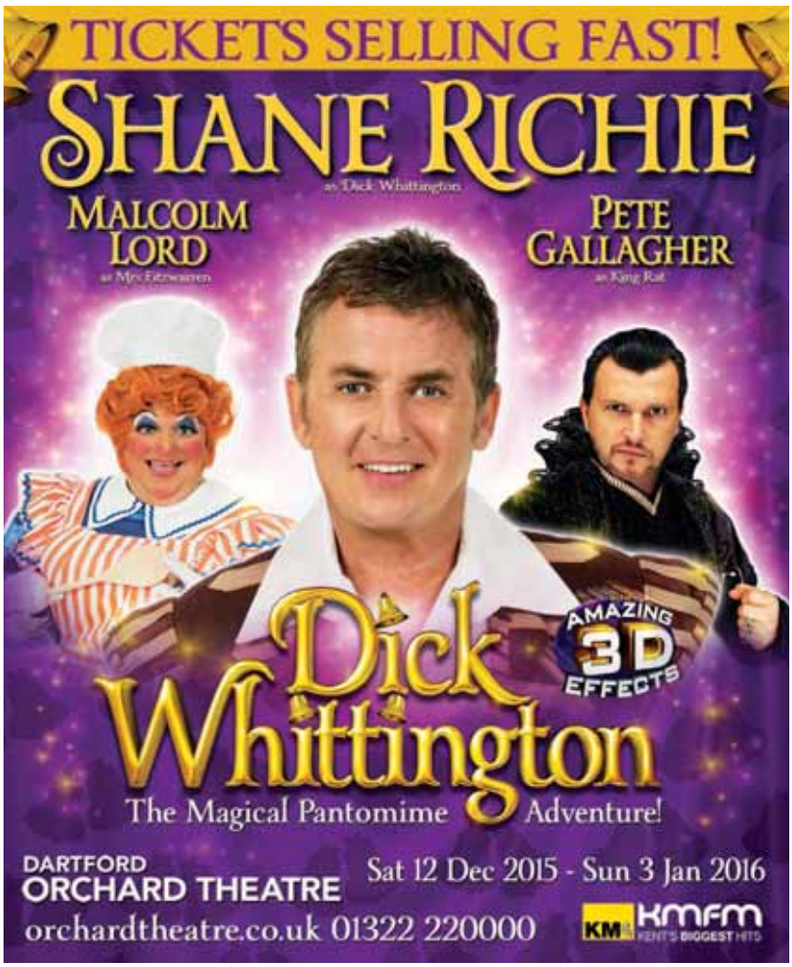
Among some of the gems on display will be Mr Postgate's stop-motion film camera, adapted using a small motor and even bits of Meccano.

Visitors can see why Bagpuss changed from orange to pink, and even discover what Major Clanger was really saying from original shooting scripts. All the words were written down in English and then translated into the distinctive whistles.

Fans can also try their hand at animating the characters using current technology and learn to speak that 'Clanger' language to see what it was like in the 1960s.

There will be a series of film screenings, events, animation discussions and family-friendly workshops to accompany the exhibition.

The long ranging effect the pair's amazing programming had can still be seen with Nick Park's tribute in his Wallace and Gromit film A Matter of Loaf and Death. In that, Gromit's own Bagpuss toy is thrown in the bin but is later saved.







Feel the Force at exhibition celebrating Star Wars saga

Exclusive three-month event runs in Canterbury showcasing the posters, toys and memorabilia spawned by the original blockbusting movie trilogy



By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk











MINIATURE: Remember playing with Princess Leia, Yoda, Darth Vader, C-3PO, R2-D2 or stormtroopers? Then all will be on display at the event running at the Beaney from December through to March 2016.

ALONG time ago in a cinema near you, the phenomenon that was Star Wars was born - and its grip on the minds of millions remains as strong as ever before.

And with a brand new movie - featuring the stars of the original trilogy - hitting the screens next month, the timing could not be better to indulge in a little nostalgia.

Because not only has the space saga kept audiences on the edge of their seat since first appearing back in 1977, but it also spawned a merchandising industry around it which big movie franchises ever since have sought to replicate.

In the years between the original Star Wars, released in 1977, to 1985, it is estimated around 300 million action toys were sold - miniature replicas of almost the entire movie cast.

And it is that era around the original trilogy which will form the part of a major three month, exclusive, exhibition taking place in Canterbury.

May the Toys Be With You will run at the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge in the centre of the city and celebrate the merchandising around the movies.

Showcasing one of the UK's finest collections of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters, many will be going on display for the first time.

Included in the collection is a rare piece of cinema history.

British designer and artist Tom Beauvais, the man behind several classic British movie posters of the 1960s and 1970s, is loaning his concept poster from the first Star Wars film to the exhibition.

Beauvais was working 'in competition' with his friend and colleague Tom Chantrell at graphic design agency Chapman Beauvais when the commission came in.

The design brief from 20th Century Fox had been for an action movie and to put more emphasis on the human characters.



THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFERS



The York Fireplace

£795



The Celsi Electric Fire

£689

morris & turner
BATHROOM AND FIREPLACE WAREHOUSE

• Family Run Business • Trading for 45 years • Excellent quality and service
• Up to date showroom • New Displays • Ample Parking • Wheelchair Access

Third Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 0AD | T: 01634 813813 | E: sales@morrisandturner.co.uk | W: www.morrisandturner.co.uk
CHATHAM BRANCH Opening Hours: 08.15 – 17.00 Monday – Friday, 09.15 – 17.00 Saturday, Closed Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays



ORIGINAL: Iconic poster artwork for the original Star Wars movie released back in 1977.

In the end, Chantrell's version was used, but fans can now see what could have been.

Mr Beauvais told Film on Paper: "For my design I used day-glo paper to really make the title of the film pop with bright colour. I started by putting ordinary yellow paint on the lightsabre but it looked too much like custard so I ended up using more day-glo on that to give it the right feel."

Although his Star Wars design would remain a great unseen treasure of movie poster art, Tom Beauvais's body of work would go on to include Fantastic Voyage, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, The Shining, Blade Runner and Mad Max.

This never exhibited before piece will be displayed alongside the iconic Chantrell and Hildebrandt quad posters which were ultimately used for the film.

Fans will even be able to purchase a limited number of Giclee prints, personally signed by Tom Beauvais.

NEVER SEEN STAR WARS?

IF you have never locked imaginary lightsabers or dreamed of getting behind the controls of the Millennium Falcon, or, indeed, have no idea what those things are, the whole Star Wars phenomenon may leave you a bit cold.

So just why does everyone get so excited about it?

The truth is the first three films captured the imagination of a generation with adventure, special effects, and enough toys to ensure you stayed in the Star Wars universe long after you left the cinema.

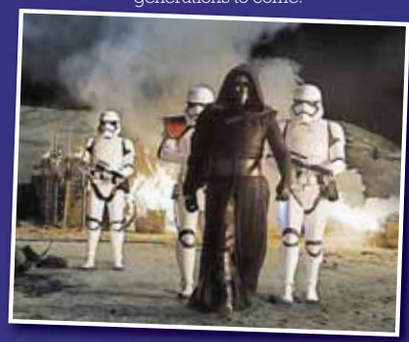
Between 1977 and 1983 Star Wars was followed by the Empire Strikes Back and then Return of the Jedi. Originally creator George Lucas saw them as three episodes in a nine-part saga - the central section.

So when, 15 years later, Lucas unveiled the first of three 'prequels' all the excitement was passed on to another generation. Granted, the Phantom Menace was overly complicated and not a touch on the originals, but they films got better with Attack of the Clones and finally Revenge of the Sith.

It explained the back story behind the original trilogy.

Now, for the first time since 1983, the main stars of the original movies - Harrison Ford, Mark Hammill and Carrie Fisher will reunite for The Force Awakens. George Lucas sold his company two years ago to Disney so will not be involved.

Fans are expecting a return to form. The reality is that the Star Wars brand is so strong even is they are merely just 'OK' the fanaticism will continue for generations to come.



■ **May The Toys Be With You opens on Saturday, December 5 in the special exhibitions room on the first floor of the Beaney. Admission is on a 'pay what you can' basis.**



Full of hot air...the rise and fall of hovercrafts

They were once the high-speed route across the English Channel as crowds flocked to use services in Dover and at Ramsgate. But 15 years after their last flights we look at what went wrong...

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



FLIGHT OF FANCY: The final flight from Dover (main picture) and some of the types of hovercraft used over the years and (middle picture below) one of the catamarans that replaced them...

FIFTEEN years ago, the county finally bid farewell to what, for years, had been one of the most popular forms of cross-Channel transport.

The hovercraft was once upon a time a very modern method of transport; harnessing technology, speed and style.

It flew above the choppy waters, taking passengers over the busy Dover to Calais route in a mere 30 minutes, hitting speeds of some 60 knots – close to 70mph. Dover was not alone during its hey-day either – a service from Thanet operated too.

The hovercraft era promised so much... but ultimately, pardon the pun, ran out of air.

Granted, those who travelled in them often found the journey a little, shall we say, 'lumpy' but for speed and efficiency it was hard to argue.

They may have been noisy – as the giant fans processed the air which acted as a cushion upon which the vessel bounced across the waves – but they were admired by many.

So when Hoverspeed ran its final service from Dover to Calais, and return, on October 1, 2000, it signalled the end of an era.

Replaced by the more futuristic and smoother catamarans – although also slower – the hovercrafts now only operate a commercial service in the Solent – whisking people to and from the Isle of Wight.

Today, the Channel Tunnel may still take a little longer, but the journey time is similar and the weather rarely interferes in its operation.

So just what wrong with the once might hovercraft?

Pete Boast is the trustee and treasurer at the Dover Transport Museum. He told KoS: "It is a shame these giants of the sea have gone. But the ferries and later the Channel Tunnel put them out of business because they were able to take so many more cars and passengers at once."

Hovercraft could take just over 50 cars per crossing. The catamarans - which have long since also been rested – took around 90.

The ferries of today, can take close to 1,000. Capacity versus cost is everything, and for the hovercraft across the Channel, the sums stopped adding up.

There was also the small issue of limited space in the passenger cabin itself - a far cry from the expanse offered by the ferries.

Adds Mr Boast: "But they were magnificent to see coming and going from the port.

"Of course, the hovercraft landing pad at the Western Docks is the last thing to go. The harbour is modifying the port there and this pad will soon be dug up.

"I used the hovercraft many times and am personally sorry it has gone.

"We have one of their giant propellers sitting outside the museum here, and it must stand about 15 feet tall. And they had four of these things on top of the cabins.

"They were a sight to see but made so much noise you would have to feel sorry for the people who lived quite close to the harbour. They may not be so sad they have finally gone."

Today the hovercraft operates in Portsmouth, but now far more popular are the one or two-man plaything for adventurers and thrillseekers. The British Hovercraft Company in Sandwich says it's built around 1,000 over the past 15 years.

Hard to believe, but it all started with a visionary and empty cans of cat food and coffee tins and a vacuum cleaner.

It dawned on Sir Christopher Cockerell more than half a century ago that perhaps the way for us to leave our island nation was to fly above the water rather than through it.

But his idea was that it flew only a few feet above the water, using the fluid dynamics of the surface to support a vessel on a cushion of air.

Cockerell came up with the obvious name of hovercraft when his working prototype arrived in 1955. A patent came a year later, he was knighted in 1969 and died in 1999.

It was revolutionary and quickly caught on. Even military applications were closely examined. Had they been a complete and total success, there would surely have been a good chance more hovercraft services would be operating today.

But running costs, noise and the fact the ferries grew to liner size means economies of scale were always against the hovercraft.

The terrain it travelled over didn't matter, and it was only for the comfort of passengers getting on and off that a flat solid base was needed next to a terminal.

But while their arrival and departure always drew a crowd – if for no other reason than the noise they generated – the hovercraft would not survive on the world's busiest shipping lane.

Around the world, it has been a similar story. There were major routes in Japan but they have now stopped, driven out of business by larger services.

Propulsion from electric motors promised quieter operation.

Things had looked so promising.

The firm Vickers launched Britain's first commercial service in 1962. This crossed the River Dee's estuary. Three years later, another opened on the Clyde, and in the mid-60 the larger hovercraft arrived in Kent with a view to conquering the cross-Channel industry; then hugely in-demand in the days prior to cheap airlines.

The SRN-4, powered by four Rolls-Royce Proteus gas turbine engines. could carry passengers' cars too and things were looking good.

Hoverlloyd had a service from Pegwell Bay to Calais from 1966 with a pair of SRN6 craft called Swift and Sure.

The same year, Townsend Car Ferries launched Britannia in Dover but that lasted just months thanks to technical problems.

The first car carriers emerged two year later flying between Dover and

CAN YOU STILL TRAVEL BY HOVERCRAFT?

HOVERTRAVEL credits itself as the only scheduled hovercraft operator in the world.

It was launched in the mid 1960s to whisk Portsmouth passengers only to the Isle of Wight and is still operating today making it easily the longest running commercial hovercraft operator anywhere.

While many now faded companies cited cost as a major nail in their coffin, this company maintains it is the "most environmentally friendly way to travel; the hovercraft uses the least amount of fuel compared with its competitors, which results in less drag and less friction".

With 10 minute flights every half hour, it needs to be economical.

The company even operates a Hoverbus between the Southsea Terminal and Gunwharf Quays, and this only takes four minutes.

Its hovercraft carries up to 127 people carrying 30 kilos each.

Since those halcyon days in the 1960s, Hovertravel says it has now carried more than 25.5 million people at a rate of 15,000 a week, thanks to the 66 daily journeys.

A £10 million investment sees two new craft coming on line soon.

Hovertravel is now owned by the Bland Group, which was established in 1810 and currently owns 15 companies.

Its company spokesman Stephen Forster, said: "Hovertravel is very much part of the two communities it serves in Ryde and Southsea, so as an essential link for people living in these areas it helps local residents travel to work, to school and for leisure.

"It is also the quickest way for tourists to visit the popular destination of the Isle of Wight and finally the hovercraft, as a unique mode of transport, attracts visitors from across the globe.

"The engines are quieter than they used to be. Nowadays we get people waxing lyrical on social media about the sound of the hovercraft reminding them of their childhood.

"When we loaded a video of one of the existing craft landing at Southsea with no soundtrack to Facebook - we received comments asking to hear the engines."



Boulogne taking under half an hour.

Seaspeed, owned by British Rail and operating out of Dover, launched the Princess Margaret into commercial service in 1968 followed by the Princess Anne the following year.

Three years after that, there was almost 80 flights a week from Dover to Boulogne and 88 from Pegwell Bay to Calais.

Trying to keep pace with demand, £14 million was spent at Dover's Western Docks on a new Hoverport in 1978. It was also able to cope with the new even larger SRN4s.

The peak period for Dover was in 1982 when an astonishing 2.5 million passengers and 400,000 cars were carried in just half a year.

But from that high, business started to decline.

There had also been safety concerns when five people were killed during a stormy Ryde to Southsea flight in 1972. It was said the SRN-6 was overturned in a gale.

Appearances on the big screen in the James Bond movies Diamonds Are Forever in 1971 and Mookraker in 1979 helped keep them afloat but it was all in vain.

There were other incidents according to the Hovercraft Museum in Hampshire. A Seaspeed vessel was damaged by a wave; a propeller broke and damaged the Hoverlloyd terminal building in Pegwell Bay.

The Princess Margaret was in the wars, damaged by a wave in 1980; hit another vessel in January 1981 fog; and in March 1985 was blown on to the harbour wall at Dover.

By the time new Channel Tunnel opened in 1994, the public's love of the hovercraft had faded further.

Finally, on October 1, 2000, the last flight ended on the beach outside the former Churchill Hotel in Dover.

Misty eyed fans knew that was also the location of the first landing in 1959.

Hovercraft are still helping supply remotely stationed troops and coastguards around the world, including Sweden and Lithuania.

Commercial services are rumoured to be starting in China, and even one in Wales. But for Kent the roar of the engines seems destined to remain heard only in the memory and the history books.





Set within the heart of Kent's beautiful unspoilt countryside, Pilgrim's Retreat is the prefect setting for idyllic and relaxing lifestyle.

We offer private residential and leisure homes, exclusively for the over 50's. You can swim in our indoor heated swimming pool, or work out in our community gym. Meet up with friends in our clubhouse or coffee shop, even go for a relaxing stroll within the 30 acres of beautiful woodlands. The possibilities are endless. You can even bring your pets! After all they are part of the family.

AS SEEN ON TV!

Indoor two lane bowling Coming soon.

Convenience store Now open

AS SEEN ON TV!



We offer Part Exchange

- No Solicitors Fees
- No Stamp Duty and
- No Estate Agents Fees

Show homes open daily. No appointment required.

'A beautiful and tranquil place to live'

Pilgrims Retreat, Hogbarn Lane, Harrietsham, Kent ME17 1NZ

We are 1hr from central London, 30 mins from the M25 J3 and 10 mins from the M20.

Tel: 01622 859648

Email: info@pilgrimsretreat.com



Own your own home
and keep the dog.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
BHA British Homes Awards 15
COMMENDED

Over 80%
Now Sold







Audley Mote House.
Luxury retirement village.

Downsizing is a big decision but it doesn't mean giving up the things that matter most. With Audley, you own your own home, so you can keep the pets you love.

With over 80% of the village now sold, don't miss your chance to reserve your first choice in this final phase of development and find a home to be truly proud of.

Move to Audley Mote House and experience a truly independent lifestyle surrounded by 450 acres of magnificent historic parkland and just minutes from the village of Bearsted in Kent. Own your own luxury cottage or apartment and enjoy the freedom of having your property and gardens maintained for you.

Call us now to book your private tour. It could be one of the best decisions you've ever made.

Mote Park, Nr Bearsted, Kent ME15 8NQ

Sales Office open daily, 9am – 5.30pm
Properties from £374,950 – £569,950

Call us to book an appointment.

01622 297 093

www.audleyretirement.co.uk

AUDLEY

GOOD MOVE

Foster Carers urgently Needed in Kent –

Do you have the compassion to look after a child who is seeking refuge in the UK?



If you have a spare room; can offer a secure, safe and loving environment to a homeless child and have the time, energy and commitment to care, please contact us urgently – we're waiting to hear from you.

Tel: 0845 603 8354

Email: info@nextstepfostering.org

Web: www.nextstepfostering.org

next step fostering

Helping people to improve wellbeing and live healthily

The fourth annual Wellbeing Symposium took place in Maidstone this week, with a number of speakers talking about important health issues, writes **Molly Kersey-Law**



INSPIRING: Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson was the headline speaker at the Wellbeing Symposium. Pictures by Ken Mears

FOR those of us balancing busy lives, raising families or working full time jobs, taking care of our own health and wellbeing can sometimes be put on the backburner.

Whether people are struggling to exercise at the end of long working days, don't know the right steps to take towards living a healthy lifestyle or struggle in their workplace, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed.

A Kent-based event has been aiming to shine a spotlight on people's health and wellbeing, and help to make it a priority.

The fourth annual Wellbeing Symposium took place at the Kent Event Centre, Maidstone, on Wednesday.

The event brought together a number of specialists and delegates, with key speakers and a Q&A panel hosted by former newspaper editor and trustee of charity Wellbeing of Women Eve Pollard.

"The symposium is an enormously worthwhile event," said Roger Gough, Kent County Council's cabinet member for education and health reform.

"No one has the answer in full, wellbeing is down to all of us. We must make use of our wider social assets and build partnerships. We want to make Kent a wellbeing exemplar."

Paralympian Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, who has won 11 gold medals for wheelchair racing, delivered the headline speech at the event.

She spoke about the importance of leading an active lifestyle.

"I have got a 13-year-old daughter. I don't want her growing up with a shorter life expectancy than I have, and if we don't do something that's what is going to happen," she told KoS.

"As a nation we are not as active as we think we are. We love sport, and love watching sport and support our athletes really well, but we aren't active. People are busy, people are working longer hours, family impacts on it. People are travelling further to work, it's lots of things.

"If you get home from doing a 10 hour shift, probably the last thing you want to do is be active."

However, Baroness Grey-Thompson encouraged people to 'think of the health of their heart as well as their waistline' and do a little bit of physical activity every day.

She said that campaigns such as Sport England's This Girl Can - which aimed to get women involved in sport, regardless of their shape or ability - were essential and making simple changes can improve people's health.

And she said that workplaces could potentially help people with this.

"It could be through a line manager or someone looking at people's working hours and their productivity and not using it as a KPI to make their life challenging but making sure they are as happy and as healthy as they can be at work," she said.

"On stage I said 'I can't sit and talk about living a healthy and active life if I am not doing it myself' so it has to come from the top down and come from the management.

"People's motivation for being active would be very different. Maybe you want to be fit and healthy because you want to work for the next 10 years.

"If you're in a workplace where you don't think the wellbeing of the employees is thought about, think about what you can do to address it. For example, women who go out walking together at lunchtimes are more likely to keep it up and some workplaces encourage employees not to eat lunch at their desk."

Other speakers included Stephen Clift, of Canterbury Christ Church University, who asked delegates to sing a traditional folk song from Ghana. The activity was aiming to illustrate how singing can positively impact on people's health.

President of the Royal Society for Public Health, Lord Hunt, who also spoke at the event, said: "Wellbeing needs to be the focus of everything we do together. We need a coordinated countywide approach."

The symposium offered eight workshops covering issues such as housing and wellbeing and technology and health.

There was also an interactive health zone, which offered visitors activities to take part in such as cholesterol and blood glucose testing, taking their blood pressure and learning their Body Mass Index (BMI).

Ben McGannan, from organiser The Wellbeing People, said: "A lot of work goes into preparing the Wellbeing Symposium, and it was very satisfying to see it all come together so well this year.

"The challenge now is to build on this for next year. Kent is at the forefront of the health and wellbeing agenda, and this event will continue to lead the way."



THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH WE DRINK

WHEN thinking about our health, the amount of alcohol that we drink plays a key role.

Alcohol Awareness Week begins on Monday (November 16) – led by national charity Alcohol Concern.

The theme of this year's campaign is 'the impact of alcohol on our society'.

In the county, it is believed some 270,000 people are drinking to dangerous levels - increasing their risk of a number of illnesses.

Hospitals in Kent treat around 20,000 cases of alcohol related illnesses over the course of a year, and it is estimated that alcohol related issues cost the NHS in Kent £108m a year.

It is recommended men should not regularly exceed three or four units of alcohol a day and women should not exceed two or three.

Kent County Council's director for Public Health, Andrew Scott-Clark, said: "Although the vast majority of people in Kent enjoy drinking alcohol sensibly and within recommended guidelines, there are many who do not realise



or are under-estimating how much they drink and the impact it has. It is paramount that we take early action because alcohol related harm is largely preventable."

KCC has launched a new online test to tie in with Alcohol Awareness Week which asks users simple questions to find out how much they are drinking and the impact on their health.

Depending on what score they get, they will be sent advice about where they can go to find help.

Mr Scott-Clark said: "This new interactive quiz will allow people to be honest about their drinking levels and, via computer in their own homes, they will receive specific prompts and advice from experts which will provide crucial support and help them to change habits which could ultimately save their lives."

Cliftonville GP Heather Scott, who features in the online tool, added: "People can often be too embarrassed to tell the truth when asked about their drinking so, by using the online tool in the privacy of their own home, they are more encouraged to be honest with themselves. Drinking is an easy habit to get into and equally easy to lose track of how much you've had.

"The good news is that by recognising how much you're having and what it is doing to your health, small reductions can be made and make a big difference."

To find out more, visit www.kent.gov.uk/knowyour score.



FUMING: Maidstone's County Hall - home of Kent County Council - but not the place of work of 41 staff earning more than £100,000 it insists. Below, Thanet District Council's offices

Town hall fury after report says top council execs are raking it in

TayPayers' Alliance report sparks anger over claims of number of staff earning more than £100,000...

FIGURES released by pressure group the TayPayers' Alliance on the salaries of executives working across local government in the county have been slammed for being "misleading and inaccurate".

The statistics claim to reveal the number of those in our local and county council who are receiving six-figure salaries.

It says it reveals how despite drastic spending cuts and austerity measures, the authorities are paying a fortune to public servants.

It claimed Kent County Council has 41 officers benefitting from packages of more than £100,000, plus eight on £150,000 and three scooping in excess of £200,000. KCC claim that is more than double the real figure.

This set against a back drop of cuts to KCC's funding over the past five years which has seen 37 per cent of its budget, totalling some £350 million, cut.

It currently spends some £92m of its £1.8bn budget on management, support services and overheads.

But KCC says it was furious with the findings which it says are not a fair or accurate account. The county authority says the amounts claimed to be paid to officers includes pensions and other costs.

It has already taken up the issue with the TaxPayers' Alliance.

A KCC spokesman told us: "The figures quoted are misleading and inaccurate. Firstly they are from 2013/14 and are now out of date. Secondly, they are based on a Freedom of Information request that did not look at staff who earn £100,000 or more but at those staff that cost the authority £100k to employ when taking into consideration the combination of salary, pension and other costs to the council to employ.

"KCC is one of the largest local authorities in the UK and currently employs 20 individuals earning more than £100k."

The figures have been released just as councils brace themselves to hear how much further their budgets will be slashed for the years ahead when the chancellor George Osborne reveals his spending review.

It is almost certain to spread the declining funding even thinner and erode front line services.

Next tier local authorities were also left angry over the statistics.

According to the TaxPayers' Alliance figures, Thanet is said to have 21 staff on more than £100,000 (although the alliance has subsequently admitted this was a mistake); Medway, 11; Canterbury, seven; Swale, six; Gravesham, Dover and Dartford, four; and Shepway, Maidstone, Ashford, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells with three.

On the £150,000 tier is said to be Medway – which is a unitary authority – with four, and then Shepway and Swale with one each. Shepway also has one in the £200,000 bracket, it is claimed.

A spokesman for Thanet council said: "We challenged The Taxpayers' Alliance – they admit they got it wrong and we do not have 21 on £100,000 plus.

"They said it was a 'fat finger error' which was a typo. But even then, we say we have two on that figure while they maintain we have four, according to the way they have worked it all out. Either way, it is not 21."

Shepway had three on £100,000-plus, one on £150k+ and another on £200k, according to the figures.

A spokesman for Shepway said: "We are puzzled about salary figures. The one salary quoted as being over £200,000 included contractual redundancy and pension payments. When these are removed the annual salary would have been under £70,000.

"There were only two salaries that were over £100,000 in the 2014/15 year. One was at £130,488 for our chief executive and one at £105,412 for a corporate director.

"In 2013/14 again only two people earned more than £100,000 - our chief executive with £126,613 and a former director on £105,172. No-one earned more than £150,000.

"We do not feel these two salaries are excessive and believe they reflect the remuneration commensurate to the responsibilities and workload demanded by the posts and the skills, qualifications and experience of the post holders. We believe they are around the median for these positions."

Gravesham council also refutes the findings which said it has four over £100k and said: "The figures include employer's pension contributions which authorities are obliged by law to make. There is only one officer, the chief executive, whose actual salary exceeds £100,000.

"Even using the figures used by the TaxPayers' Alliance, the figure of four employees deemed to be receiving above £100,000 compares well with other authorities in Kent given many of them have no housing stock and have outsourced their refuse collection, recycling and street cleansing functions. Gravesham retains its housing stock and so has housing management functions to undertake and has a full direct service organisation undertaking refuse collection, recycling, street cleansing and housing maintenance."

Dover council hit back too at its four earning in excess of £100k. It said: "Just one member of staff receives a salary over £100,000. The TaxPayers' Alliance data is extracted from the council's accounts, and shows the overall costs of employing those staff, including pension contributions."

When challenged about the methods it used to compile the earnings, the alliance told us: "The figures were obtained via Freedom of Information requests which asked for remuneration defined as including but not limited to: 'salary, fees, allowances, bonuses, benefits in kind, compensation for loss of office and employers' pension contributions'.

"Between 2009-10 and 2014-15, local authority spending has been reduced by 23.4 per cent per person in real terms. With growing populations, reductions in central government grants in many areas, and a cap on council tax increases, many councils are reducing services.

"However, executive salaries in many local authorities remain high, raising questions over value for money for taxpayers."

The apparent salaries make for some eye-watering reading. The survey claims in the UK there are at least 3,483 council employees paid in excess of £100,000; 537 on over £150,000; 23 in the £250,000-plus bracket.

The highest paid council worker in Britain, according to these stats, is Jill Stannard, the chief executive of Cumbria County Council on £411,025.

Jonathan Isaby, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said of its Town Hall Rich List: "Local authorities that are providing more for less and delivering council tax cuts clearly have talented people at the helm, but taxpayers living in poorly performing areas will be furious at the scale of some of these massive pay awards.

"After more than a decade of reckless spending and council tax hikes, local politicians now have to make necessary savings and the pay and perks for the town hall elite have to come under the spotlight."



Ever considered a career in Osteopathy?

If you're thinking about what to do after sixth form or college, or contemplating a career change, then perhaps osteopathy should be on your list of options.

Osteopathy offers a rewarding, challenging and flexible career as a primary healthcare professional, with opportunities to specialise in areas such as sports, maternity and care of children, and even to work with animals. The profession is regulated in the UK by the General Osteopathic Council and there are almost 5,000 UK-registered osteopaths, carrying out over 7 million consultations each year.

As primary healthcare professionals, osteopaths are able to both diagnose and treat patients. Focusing on the body's skeleton, muscles, soft tissues and internal organs, osteopaths use manual techniques to encourage the body's own healing mechanisms. Techniques involved could be massage, articulation, lymphatic drainage, manipulation of joints or the ever so gentle balancing techniques and cranial osteopathy. They may also provide advice on lifestyle issues, diet and exercise.

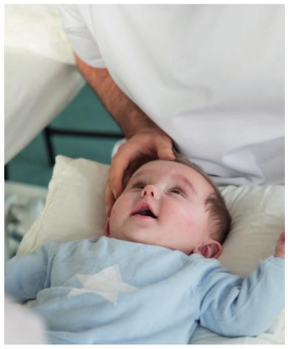
Each appointment lasts between 30 and 60 minutes, which gives the osteopath time to fully understand their patient's complete state of health.



Osteopathy is recognised to treat a range of musculoskeletal conditions, such as low back pain and neck pain, but it is actually a far broader healthcare approach. Based on the concept that the structure of the body is directly related to its function, osteopaths have positive health effects on patients experiencing a wide range of conditions and because it aims to improve the way our bodies function it can be applied to patients of all ages.

Osteopaths work with elite sports people, they work with Olympic teams and football clubs, they treat children, they treat pensioners. Their holistic approach to health is appreciated across the population.

Maidstone is recognised worldwide as a centre of excellence for the training and practice of osteopathy and hosts the renowned European School of Osteopathy (ESO). Founded in 1974, the School has been instrumental in the development of osteopathic education across Europe and beyond. The School currently has partner colleges in Russia, Poland, and Denmark and also helped the development of schools in France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Egypt and Italy.

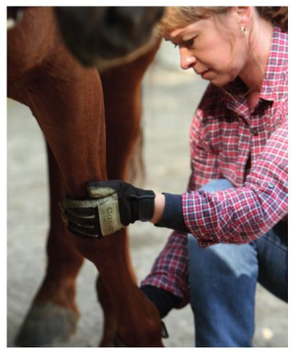


Based at the beautiful Boxley House, the ESO provides undergraduate education validated as a partner college of the University of Greenwich. Its four year Integrated Masters degree is respected for having one of the most innovative and exciting approaches to treatment, which means that graduates are well prepared to excel in an exciting and rewarding career.

The European School of Osteopathy has a well-established and successful clinic in Maidstone, which provides over 20,000 treatments to the local community each year.

Students gain an in-depth knowledge of the human body and how it functions before entering the ESO's teaching clinic, where they experience specialist clinics in Sports, Maternity, Children and Musculoskeletal Diagnostic Ultrasound. Under the supervision of qualified osteopathic tutors, they gain more than 1,200 hours of hands-on clinical experience.

The ESO is also trailblazing in the expanding world of animal osteopathy, which is now offered as a post-graduate MSc. Animal osteopathy is an increasingly popular area of the profession.



So, if you think you would enjoy a career helping people and have an interest in human physiology and health maybe osteopathy is for you. The ESO considers every application on the personal qualities of the applicant; if you don't have the required level of science there's a pre-entry science course in the summer, to get you up to speed.

For further information and informal advice please contact the ESO's Admissions Team on 01622 671558 or visit www.eso.ac.uk.

Become an Osteopath

The European School of Osteopathy is an internationally renowned school and it's on your doorstep! Apply now for 2016 entry

ESO European School of Osteopathy

Our four-year degree programme provides every skill you'll need to become a successful osteopathic practitioner, including a dedicated teaching clinic for students and a business and professional development course - 90% of students are in employment/ further study within 6 months of graduation.

Open Days

Wednesday 25th November
Wednesday 20th January

To book, call 01622 671558 or email admissions@eso.ac.uk or you can register online at www.eso.ac.uk/opendays.

Additional dates are scheduled for 2016 - visit our website for details



European School of Osteopathy, Boxley House, The Street, Boxley, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3DZ
T: +44 (0)1622 671558 f: www.facebook.com/EuropeanSchoolofOsteopathy t: twitter.com/ESOMaidstone

KITCHENS, BATHROOMS, SHOWERS & CENTRAL HEATING

CHROME HEATED TOWEL RAILS

● Quality chrome finish ● Affordable style & luxury ● 14 sizes from stock ● 22mm tube diameter ● Dual energy installations * ● Straight or curved

Straight Rails

Width mm	Height mm	BTU	List Price	TKM Price
400	800	725	£82.60	**£59.00**
400	1000	865	£95.20	**£68.00**
400	1200	1052	£103.60	**£74.00**
400	1600	1390	£154.00	**£110.00**
500	800	859	£86.80	**£62.00**
500	1000	1015	£96.60	**£69.00**
500	1200	1240	£105.00	**£75.00**
500	1600	1638	£166.60	**£119.00**
500	1800	1882	£180.66	**£129.00**
600	800	995	£86.80	**£62.00**
600	1000	1174	£102.20	**£73.00**
600	1200	1439	£110.60	**£79.00**
600	1600	1899	£172.20	**£123.00**
600	1800	2184	£184.87	**£133.00**



Curved Rails

Width mm	Height mm	BTU	List Price	TKM Price
400	800	725	£89.60	**£64.00**
400	1000	864	£99.40	**£71.00**
400	1200	1052	£107.80	**£77.00**
400	1600	1390	£162.00	**£116.00**
500	800	859	£93.80	**£67.00**
500	1000	1015	£101.47	**£73.00**
500	1200	1240	£110.60	**£79.00**
500	1600	1638	£169.40	**£121.00**
500	1800	1882	£183.40	**£131.00**
600	800	995	£92.40	**£66.00**
600	1000	1174	£105.00	**£75.00**
600	1200	1439	£166.20	**£83.00**
600	1600	1899	£177.80	**£127.00**
600	1800	2184	£191.80	**£137.00**

* Electric element option available for all above rails for dual energy installations

Traditional Heated Towel Radiators

Timeless elegance and functionality

Height mm	Width mm	BTU	TKM Price
963	493	1808	**£159.00**
963	673	2412	**£199.00**



Underfloor Heating

Polypipe

Polypipe manufactures the most comprehensive range of underfloor heating systems available for the UK market.

Suitable for:
- Solid Floor Systems
- Floating Floor Systems
- Suspended Floor Systems
- Existing Floors & Low Profile Systems

LESS THAN HALF PRICE

Resort Rimless WC Suite

- No hidden Rim to Harbour germs
- No ledges or rim ensured water is fully projected round to the front of the bowl
- Fully back to wall or open back options
- Standard height or comfort height available
- Soft close seat included

From **£288.00**

30 other WC suites on display from £53.95



BATHROOM FURNITURE SET

L- Shape Furniture Set
White Gloss Finish
Resin Basin Left or Right Hand
Soft Close Doors
Concealed cistern included
Tap sold separately
Size 1100X460mm

SET £279.00 PRICE

Add a back to wall WC pan & seat from only £59.00 *while stock last



Bathroom Vanity Units



- High gloss white finish
- Ceramic one piece basins
- Factory assembled
- All doors feature soft close hinges
- Suit any bathroom or en-suite setting
- 6 sizes from stock
- Full range of mixer taps sold seperately

Width mm	Depth mm	Doors	Drawers	TKM Price
450	440	1	0	**£84.95**
550	440	2	0	**£89.95**
650	450	2	0	**£119.95**
750	480	3	2	**£149.95**
850	480	3	2	**£169.95**
1050	485	2	3	**£199.95**

Thermostatic Showers



TKM stock one of the largest ranges of showers around.

From famous brands like Mira, Aqualisa, Hudson Reed.

With prices from £69.95

Cloakroom Vanity Units



- Compact minimalist design
- Ceramic basin
- White gloss or Light Oak finish
- Size 781H x 390W x 215D (mm)
- Full range of mixer taps available sold seperately

£79.95

SLIMLINE FURNITURE PACK

500mm Basin Unit | 500mm WC Unit
One Piece Resin Basin
Pan with Soft close toilet seat
Dual flush concealed cistern
Tap sold separately

SET £289.00 PRICE



BATH SHOWER SCREEN

Fully Reversible
6mm toughened Safety Glass
Chrome frame, clear glass
Out of true wall adjustment
size 1400H x 800w.mm

NOW ONLY £49.95 YOU SAVE £20.00



RELAY SHOWER

Thermostatic bar valve shower with slide rail shower kit

NOW ONLY £39.00 YOU SAVE £30.00



Contract Bathroom Suite



Comprising Bath - choose from 3 sizes
1700 x 700mm, 1600 x 700mm or 1500 x 700mm
In either Pressed Steel or Acrylic

WC Suite with toilet seat
Basin and Pedestal 1 or 2 Tap Hole

BEST £159.95 SELLER

Shower Enclosure Package



Aqua Dart
1200mm sliding door with 800mm side panel

1200 x 800mm low profile stone resin shower tray

List Price £710.00
Less than half price

PACK £349.00 PRICE

Kitchen Sinks



Stainless Steel sink and tap packs From **£89.99**

Ceramic kitchen sinks From **£119.00**

Bathroom Furniture Package



High gloss white Vanity Unit 550mm wide	**£170.00**
WC Unit 500mm wide	**£131.00**
D-Shape Back to Wall Pan including Soft Close Seat	**£118.80**
Concealed Dual Flush Cistern	**£40.75**
Barra Basin Mixer Tap with Click Waste	**£53.00**

Total £513.55

TKM Pack Price - £259.00

Shower Enclosures

CLEARANCE RANGE



Quadrant Enclosures

Size mm	List Price	TKM Clearance Price
800x800	£435.00	**£149.00**
900x900	£435.00	**£149.00**
1000x800	£600.00	**£199.00**
1200x800	£630.00	**£199.00**

Pivot Shower Doors

Size mm	List Price	TKM Clearance Price
760	£405.00	**£99.00**
800	£427.50	**£109.00**
900	£427.50	**£109.00**

Side Panels (to suit Pivot Doors)

Size mm	List Price	TKM Clearance Price
700	£225.00	**£99.00**
800	£255.00	**£99.00**

KEY FEATURES: 6mm Easy Clean Toughened Safety Glass, 1850mm Height (excluding tray height), Quick Releaser Bottom Rollers for ease of cleaning, Out of true Wall Adjustment up to 40mm, Chrome framework, Clear Glass

ROMA TAPS

Basin Mixer Tap



LIST PRICE £116.40 NOW £39.00 YOU SAVE £77.40

Bath Mixer



LIST PRICE £135.60 NOW £69.00 YOU SAVE £66.60

Bath Shower Mixer



LIST PRICE £166.20 NOW £79.00 YOU SAVE £87.80

TKM

Call our team on 01304 374774

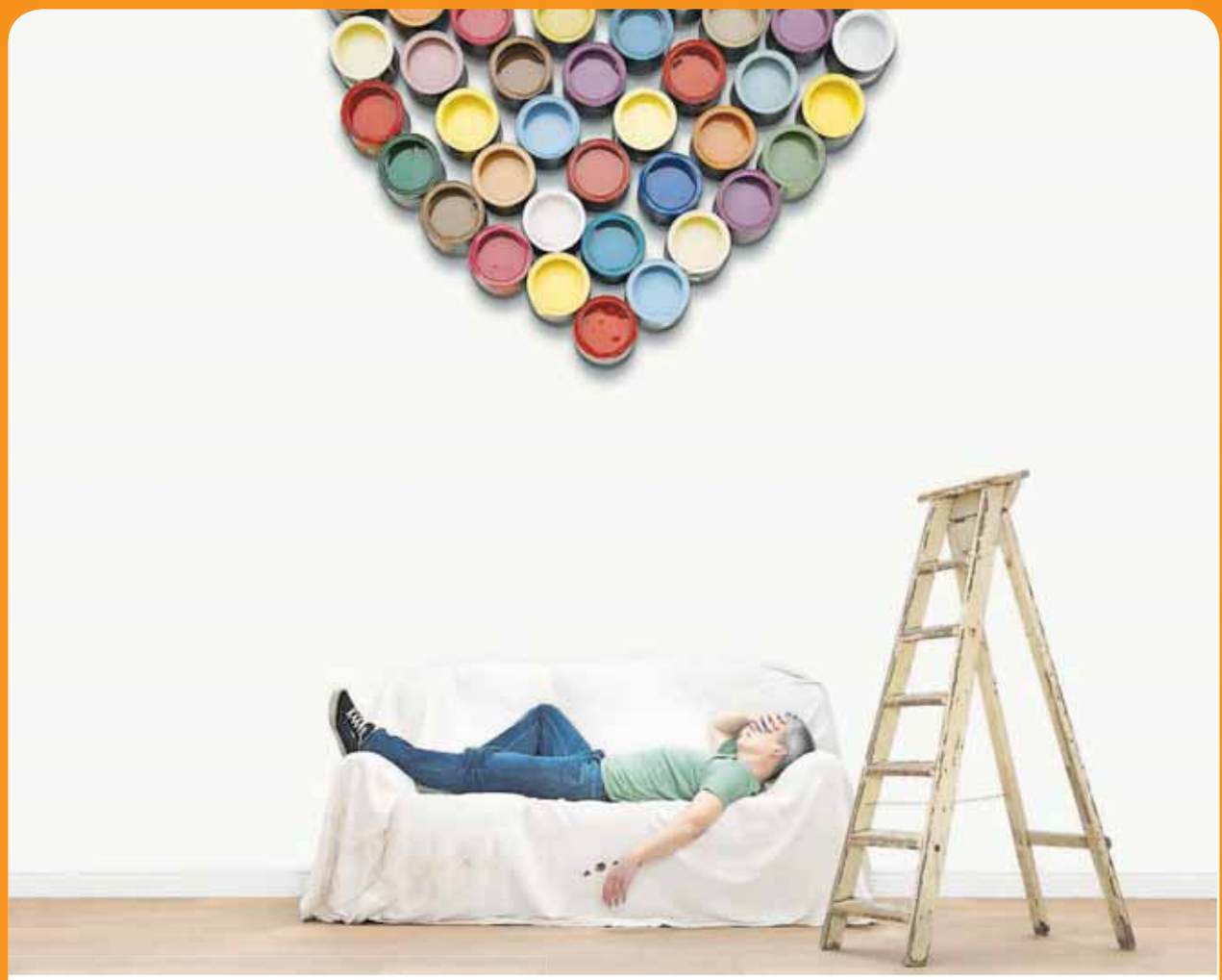
Or visit our showroom to view our full range:

91 - 91a St Richard's Road, Walmer, Deal CT14 9JU

www.tkm.uk.com

Directions from Sandwich/Thanet - Coming into Deal, at the mini roundabout continue straight across onto Manor Road. Take 3rd exit onto Mill Hill. Turn left at the top of the hill. We are on the right opposite the water tower. OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK MON-FRI 8AM-5.30PM, SAT 8AM-4PM

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT



COMEDY: A Better Woman explores the search for 'the one'

Touching new comedy due in Canterbury next month

Molly Kersey-Law spoke to Simon Mendes da Costa, writer of A Better Woman

EXPLORING the quest to find 'the one', a new comedy play will be making its way to Canterbury later this year.

A Better Woman, written by Simon Mendes da Costa, is the second play that the Marlowe Theatre has produced.

It focuses on Tom, who is trying to find someone to spend the rest of his life with.

After a few romantic near misses, he tries online dating and, with the help of his despairing neighbours, embarks on a series of eventful dates in a bid to try and find the perfect companion.

Mr Mendes da Costa, who lives in Whitstable, explained: "He is a man in his mid-forties.

"He's never committed to anything but now is the time that he really thinks he ought to.

"He's very lovable and a little bit hapless at times, but certainly aspiring to do the right thing.

"I think you should empathise with his vulnerability."

Mr Mendes da Costa is the author of West End and Broadway hit Losing Louis.

He was commissioned to write A Better Woman by the Marlowe Theatre, where he currently works as a literary associate.

"I knew they wanted to start producing plays, so I said 'how about I write a play for you?'," he explained.

"I had a little bit of this play written, probably a scene, about eight to 10 years ago that was just sitting in a drawer. It was always there and I always wanted to use it but didn't really have the opportunity. I reworked it."

He added: "I have drawn a lot of my own life into this particular play. I did some dating myself about 10 years ago.

"I came back and wrote some scripts about the more interesting and amusing things that happened.

"I went back to that and went 'okay, that's how Tom goes about meeting other people', so I drew on my own life experience."

A Better Woman will be directed by Tilly Vosburgh.

Ben Porter, whose stage credits include 1984 and Woman in Black, will be taking on the role of central character Tom.

"Ben is an open, honest and funny actor and perfect for the role of Tom," said Mr Mendes da Costa.

"We spent a long time making sure we had exactly the right cast and it was worth it.

"I am loving the cast, I think they are going to do a great job."

The play has been supported by public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Marlowe Theatre Development Trust.

Theatre director Mark Everett said: "This grant, under the grants for the arts scheme, follows on from last year's support for our production of Beached in the Marlowe Studio, which subsequently transferred to London's Soho Theatre."

A Better Woman will be performed in the Marlowe Studio from December 1 to 19.

A British sign language-interpreted performance will take place on December 10 and an audio-described performance will take place on December 12.

Tickets for the first three performance dates are £10 and all other tickets are £14.

For more details or to book visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

» Email us details of your event to:
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Tel: 01233 653476

Follow us @KOSMedia or www.kentnews.co.uk/leisure

holidays

Call
01895 83 33 33
for bookings
and information



Back to the 60s Carry on New Year Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight

Friday 8 January, 2016 • Quote: BP1-KOS

Too busy to do the New Year in December? Join us for a private party at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight as we extend the New Year festivities into January and take you on a trip down memory lane back to the 1960s. Our exclusive weekend, designed specially for the over 40s generation, includes a gala New Year's Eve party, complete with Big Ben countdown to midnight and a Best of British sing- a-long with all the old favourites including Land of Hope and Glory and Auld Lang Syne. PLUS there are Free Drinks every night from 6pm-midnight to help the party go with a swing. The entertainment line-up features authentic 60s Bands The Fourmost and Union Gap, plus a tribute to Dusty Springfield with Maxine Mazumder.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - **beers - house lager, bitter and cider; branded spirits including Smirnoff, Bacardi, Bells, Gordon's Gin, Courvoisier Brandy, Lambs Navy Rum, Martini & Harveys Bristol Cream Sherry; wine by the glass; draught soft drinks and cordials** • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • 1960s themed live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing - Portsmouth to Fishbourne or Lymington to Yarmouth



Worthing Winter Warmer Party

Chatsworth Hotel 29 Jan & 5 Feb, 2016 • Quote: WG1/2-KOS





Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment every night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi







We Love the 60s Spring Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast 11 March, 2016 • Quote: PS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring The Ivy League, The Merseybeats and The Pacemakers plus tributes to The Beach Boys and The Beatles. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you're sure to love.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full 60s theme entertainment programme • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrade available



Mamma Mia & Super 70s Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast 8 July, 2016 • Quote: SS7-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Super Summer Party - for over 40s only - to make the most of our favourite season. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring 70s themed music and nostalgia, including a screening of Mamma Mia the movie and an Abba tribute band. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you won't want to miss.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available

Private Events: You cannot book these self-drive breaks direct with the hotels/resorts

Holidays offered by
GN Holidays
& **Voyages**
Higher Denham,
Uxbridge UB9 5EL
ABTA NoY0291 • ATOL 9362
info@gnvoyages.co.uk
www.gnholidays.com
www.gnvoyages.co.uk
Open 9am to 5.30pm weekdays
9.30am to 12.30pm
Saturdays
Closed Bank Holiday weekends.

The hits of punk band Green Day performed in new musical

by Molly Kersey-Law

molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk



WHATSERNAME: Amelia Lily will be reprising her West End role

A MUSICAL featuring the hits of American punk rock band Green Day will be performed in Bromley as part of its national tour.

The award-winning show, American Idiot The Musical, will be on stage at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, from March 20 to April 2 next year.

The production features the music of the successful band, which formed in 1986 and is currently made up of Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool.

It tells the story of three boyhood friends, who are searching for some meaning in a post 9-11 world.

The show premiered in 2009 before going on to a successful Broadway run in 2010.

It has also been enjoying a critically-acclaimed run at London's West End, and will be performed at the Arts Theatre, Leicester Square, until November 22.

The show features a number of the band's hit songs including Holiday, Wake Me Up When September Ends, Boulevard of Broken Dreams, 21 Guns and the title song, American Idiot.

The production is being directed and choreographed by Racky Plews, with musical supervision from Richard Norris and sound by Chris Whybrow.

The book is by Billie Joe Armstrong and Michael Mayer.

Amelia Lily will be reprising her critically-acclaimed role Whatsername during the tour.

The singer shot to fame after competing in the eighth series of talent competition X Factor in 2011 and she previously starred as the Narrator in musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat during its UK tour.

Ms Lily said: "I'm so excited to be a part of American Idiot on tour.

"It's been an amazing experience playing Whatshername in the West End and now I get to do it all over again next year around the UK, bringing this incredible show to a wider audience who haven't had a chance to see it in London."

Tickets for the performance go on sale on November 18.

To book you can visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.

Alternatively you can call the box office on 0844 871 7620.

Circus of horrors in town



THE Circus of Horrors will be at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on Monday (November 16) with their new show Carnevil.

To book, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

The Overtones get festive

THE Overtones will be performing at the Margate Winter Gardens next month.

They will be taking to the stage on December 18 at 7pm, and performing songs from their album Good Ol' Fashioned Christmas.

For details, or to book, visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.

Wolf Alice in Folkestone



ALTERNATIVE rock band Wolf Alice will be performing at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on March 21 2016.

Tickets are on sale now.

Visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone to book.

Byrne outside looking in

COMEDIAN Ed Byrne will be performing in Maidstone later this month.

Mr Byrne will be bringing his show, Outside Looking In, to the Hazlitt Theatre on November 27 at 8pm.

Tickets to the show are £20.

To book, visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.

THE VICTORY ACADEMY

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 3 December 2015
5 pm *to* 8 pm

The Victory Academy has outstanding facilities for Sixth Form students to support their learning.



"Students receive helpful careers advice and guidance and they have clear, well thought out plans for their futures."
Ofsted



"The number of students attending the more prestigious universities is increasing as a result of good support for students in selecting and applying for higher education courses."
Ofsted



Principal and Director of KS5 talk at 6.30 pm
Come and see how The Victory Academy gives students the education they deserve.

THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST

01634 303005 office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

Chalkwell

DayBreaks & Holidays by Coach



Thames Cruise & London Eye at Christmas Time
3rd December 2015 - £55.00

Festive Lunch with Chris Goode at Heaven Farm
8th December 2015 - £54.00





London Shopping "Sales Special"
2nd January 2016 - £20.00

Holiday on Ice - 'Passion'
9th January 2016 - £54.00





Strictly Come Dancing Live 2016
14th February 2015 - £74.00

For more information call 01795 423982
or visit www.chalkwell.co.uk
Quote 'ARC 166' when you book.

Taste of the Big Apple along with stringy cheese

Russell Norman owns a string of successful restaurants and he now has a new cookbook to his name

THERE is little doubt that restaurateur Russell Norman is in the right career.

A former head of drama at a girls' school, for years he worked at restaurants on the weekend, before taking the leap in the late Nineties, eventually going on to set up the popular mini chain of Venetian-inspired Polpo eateries.

"I gave myself a talking to one day and realised I was kidding myself - if I enjoyed restaurants so much at the weekends, why wasn't that my full-time job?" explains the cook who was born in London and lives with his wife and three children in the city.

"It's different from how I imagined it. When you work for yourself, your attitude to work changes completely.

"We currently employ nearly 300 people and I feel a daily responsibility, not just for those 300 people but for their dependants, for their husbands and wives and children... but I absolutely enjoy it. I wouldn't do it if I didn't."

Nearly 20 years on from resigning as a teacher, Mr Norman is in his element, with a string of restaurants - including the New York-style Spuntino - and a new cookbook to his name.

Happy to chew the fat about food all day, he regularly "fills up notebooks" with menu inspiration, and jokes that for someone who cooks Italian food, his mastery of the language is limited to food vocabulary - rather than "asking for directions to the train station".



COOK: Russell Norman has a new cookbook

Clearly he feeds this enthusiasm into his work, where he has been known to hold competitions in his Spuntino kitchen for finding the longest strings of cheese in their macaroni cheese dish from pan to mouth.

"I'm not the current holder," laughs Mr Norman, who indulged his love of stringy cheese on holiday to Tuscany where he had "strands of cheese that looked like telephone wires".

Hearty meals like macaroni cheese form the basis of his new book Spuntino, which celebrates the comforting dishes they serve up on a daily basis.

"These aren't refined flavours that we have on the menu at Spuntino.

"We're not in the realms of delicate ingredients and subtle combination; this is comfort food, nursery food, pure and simple.

"It's the sort of thing you want to eat when you have a hangover or when you're really hungry. It's food that's about celebrating or enjoying."

And while his Polpo restaurants resemble the "backstreet wine bars of Venice", Spuntino is all about the Big Apple.

"I'm going to sound a bit naff here, but there's a bit in Sex And The City, where Sarah Jessica Parker's character talks about the additional character of the programme being the city of New York," he laughs.

"It's a rather cheesy way of summarising it, but New York does have its own energy. It's one of those places that really makes you feel good to be alive."

Live stream of ice rink

THE opening of the Tunbridge Wells ice rink on Calverley Grounds will be streamed live online.

The opening will be taking place on Friday (November 20) at 6pm and it will be streamed by Dark Horse Digital media.

The URL for the live feed will be posted on Monday on www.tunbridgewellsatchristmas.com and it will then be posted on all social media channels.

Figs in Wigs on stage

FIVE-PIECE theatre troupe Figs in Wigs will be making their way to Margate next week.

They will be performing Show Off at the Tom Thumb theatre on Saturday (November 21) at 8pm.

Tickets to the show are £10.

For more information, or to book tickets to the show, visit www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk or call 01843 221791.

International crimes

THREE acclaimed crime writers will be offering insights into the rise of international crime, both real and fictional, during a talk at the Folkestone Book Festival.

Erin Kelly, MJ McGrath and Louise Millar will be at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on Saturday (November 21) at 2.30pm.

For more details about the event, or to book, visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk or call the box office on 01303 760750.

Sex Pistol tells his story

THE story of how punk band The Sex Pistols exploded on to the music scene in the late 1970s, then disintegrated almost as quickly, will be told by a founding member of the group - bassist Glen Matlock.

His words and music story I Was A Teenage Sex Pistol will be told at the Horsebridge Centre, Whitstable, on December 5 at 7.30pm.

To book, call 01227 281774.

ANGEL FLEAMARKET
Angel Centre, Tonbridge TN9 1SF
8am-1pm EVERY FRIDAY • FREE ADMISSION
Lots of vintage and retro bargains
01732 456196 • 07798876857
email: sue.carmichael@btinternet.com

To advertise here call 01233 653461

Bloomers Restaurant
Cosy, intimate, candlelit, romantic
AS SEEN ON BBC TV
BOOK NOW
01474 322131
15-16 The Overcliffe, Gravesend DA11 0EF
www.overcliffehotel.co.uk

To advertise here call 01233 653461

KITCHEN
ANDY SHEPHERD
DESIGNER LTD
SUPPLIERS AND INSTALLERS OF QUALITY:
• Kitchens
• Bedrooms
• Bathrooms
Tel/Fax 01634 379423
www.andyshepherdkitchens.co.uk

The Local Handyman
Plumbing *(City & Guilds Qualified)* ~ Bathrooms
Washing Machines Installed ~ Radiators Moved
Landlords / Property Maintenance ~ Guttering
Painting/Decorating ~ Flat Pack Assembly
Garden Maintenance ~ Hedge Trimming
Laminate Flooring ~ General Repairs ~ Odd Jobs
No job to small ~ References Available
Fully Insured ~ All areas of Kent covered
Call Clive: 07765 663322

SPAIN
XMAS & NEW YEAR
CALELLA/LLORET
FULL BOARD & FREE DRINKS
(Snacks not available)
DEC 22nd & 27th 2015 — 8 DAYS 5 NIGHTS FR. £249
DECEMBER 22nd 2015 — 13 DAYS 10 NIGHTS FR. £349
OSTEND
4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD plus DRINKS
plus DAY EXCURSION TO XMAS MARKET IN BRUGES
FRI DEPARTURES: NOVEMBER 27th DECEMBER 11th
£199 PER PERSON
GET YOUR FREE BROCHURE TODAY!
COACH & FLIGHT HOLIDAYS TO SPAIN
DISNEYLAND PARIS BREAKS
ALL AT BARGAIN PRICES!
2016 BROCHURE OUT NOW!
PICK UP POINTS NATIONWIDE
TEL: 01443 844222 ABTA W928X
www.ferriscoachholidays.co.uk

SANCTUARY OF HEALING
MILLS TERRACE CHATHAM
PRESENTS AN
EVENING OF MEDIUMSHIP
With the superb
Keith Thompson
Tuesday 17th November
Doors open
6-45pm for 7-30pm start
Non members £5 Members £4
Light refreshments afterwards
Details on website
www.sanctuaryofhealing.co.uk

Wealden Hall
London Road, Larkfield,
Kent, ME20 6DE
Telephone:
01732 840259
wealdenhall.larkfield@greeneking.co.uk
Enjoy a **complimentary bottle of wine** with your Sunday roast when two dine.
Every Sunday throughout November when you order a Sunday roast.
Ts and Cs apply.
Enquire now for Christmas

Private Lives are explored



NOEL Coward's classic 1930s comedy Private Lives will be at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, from January 18 to 23 2016.

To book, visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley or call 0844 871 7620.

Rhydian is due in Margate

AWARD-winning singer Rhydian will be performing in Margate later this month.

He will be taking to the stage at the Theatre Royal Margate on November 21 at 7.30pm.

For more information, or to book tickets to the show, you can visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.

Laurel and Hardy classics



TWO Laurel and Hardy films will be screened at the Showcase cinema at Bluewater shopping centre. The Music Box and Block-heads will be shown on Tuesday (November 17) at 7.30pm.

Simon and Garfunkel tale

THE Simon and Garfunkel story will be performed at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on February 19 at 7.30pm.

The show features hits including Mrs Robinson and Bridge Over Troubled Water and uses original film footage.

To book, visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

Festive fun on offer at Royal Victoria Place

By Molly Kersey-Law
molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk



A NUMBER of festive events will be taking place in Tunbridge Wells next week.

The Royal Victoria Place shopping centre is busy making preparations for Christmas.

Highlights of the festive fun in store include Santa's arrival at his themed grotto and the shopping centre's lights being switched on.

Santa will be taking up residence in his frozen forest themed grotto, which he will be opening on Thursday (November 19) at 4.30pm, after he takes an afternoon tour of the town on his horse drawn sleigh.

He will be joined by the cast of the Assembly Hall Theatre's pantomime Cinderella – including Tracy Beaker star Dani Harmer, presenter Jamie Rickers and EastEnders actor Louise Jameson – who will be taking a break from their rehearsals.

The switching on of the shopping centre's Christmas lights will be starting at 6pm, with a live musical performance from the Tunbridge Wells Rock Choir.

There will be plenty of festive fun on offer over the course of the evening, with late night shopping until 8pm and free car parking after 4pm.

Marketing manager of Royal Victoria Place, Marc Burchett, said: "This evening is one of the highlights of the Christmas season here in Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Royal Victoria Place we have been busy putting the finishing touches to a spectacular night of festive family fun.

"It's certainly going to be a night for all the family to come along and get into the mood for Christmas especially with Santa arriving too.

"This is always a memorable and magical occasion for the little ones and we're confident that Santa and the cast of Cinderella will certainly not disappoint this year."

To find out more about the events on offer visit www.royalvictoriaplace.com.



FESTIVE: There will be fun activities on offer



PRESENTS: There will be late night shopping until 8pm



Meandering all along the Mekong

TRAVEL REVIEW: Mekong

by Karen Bowerman







CRUISE: The journey covers Cambodia and Vietnam

MY guide Zdee, shakes a tiny ball close to my ear. "Hear that rattle?" he says. "She's still alive!"

'She' is a silk worm. The industrous caterpillar has been weaving her cocoon. Now it's time to transform into a pupa and emerge as a moth.

Or at least, that's what would happen in the natural order of things. But here in Vietnam, where nothing's wasted, the silk will become cloth and our worm, a snack.

We're at a weaving workshop in Tan Chau, where in sweltering heat and a humidity that leaves you soaked in seconds, men work calmly at 150-year-old looms that clatter deafeningly around us.

Outside, two young girls present me with a posy of grasses they've made, expecting nothing in return.

It's a delightful encounter, typical of my seven-night cruise along the Mekong with AmaWaterways.

For the past five days, I've been sailing on the AmaDara. It has 62 suites and 50 crew all eager to please. But it's the guides that shine, as they introduce their countries with candidness, grace and pride.

The cruise takes us from Prek Thnot Dam in Cambodia to My Tho in Vietnam, although the first day is given over to a coach transfer from Siem Reap. We break the trip at a local market, where the brave try crunchy crickets and a child thrusts a live tarantula onto my chest.

On day two, we cruise down Tonle Sap and moor at the small Cambodian village of Koh Chen.

The afternoon sees me squashed behind a desk among school children, devoting myself, in song, to Old McDonald. Lessons over, I bump into the youngsters and teach them a hand-clapping game. They just about master it as the AmaDara disembarks.

As with most of Southeast Asia, Cambodia is a Buddhist country. At Oudong, 20 miles north of the capital Phnom Penh, we spend the morning at the Vipassana Dhura monastery.

We gather, cross-legged, before saffron-clad monks in the temple. The monks chant quietly, praying that we might be blessed with happiness and long life. Then they shower us with fragrant jasmine flowers.

My last day in Cambodia is a reminder of its horrific past. In the Seventies, communist soldiers of the Khmer Rouge forcibly evacuated cities, marching everyone into the country. It was part of political leader Pol Pot's dream for an agrarian utopia. The educated were executed and arts, literacy and religion abolished.

In Phnom Penh, Tuol Svay Prey High School was turned into the largest prison in the country: S21. Classrooms became interrogation centres; the playground a torture zone.

In the grounds, I meet Bou Meng, a former prisoner who survived because he was able to mend a typewriter needed to document false confessions. He shows me a book of his life story. I ask him how he manages to return to a place where he suffered so much. "If I'm here, I can tell the world what happened," he says, "and explain the importance of peace."

Many of his friends were executed at the Killing Fields on the outskirts of the city, bludgeoned to death with sticks so as not to waste money on bullets. Dips in the ground indicate mass graves. The visit is harrowing, but you can't ignore the past.

Strangely, I find picking my way through the marshy Xeo Quyt Forest in Vietnam, even more disturbing. It was the secret base of the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War.

Creepers hang everywhere, like giant netting. Narrow channels, choked with water hyacinths, snake through jungle, past bunkers and entrances to tunnels, which open like trap doors. For years, Viet Cong commanders plotted guerrilla warfare here, just a mile from a US military base. They laid booby traps and mines, spoke in whispers and met only at night.

Back on the AmaDara, there's plenty to lighten our mood: cocktail parties, cooking lessons and ample choice for dinner. I try Cambodian amok (fish curry), Vietnamese Ca Kho (caramelised catfish) and Phnom Penh pumpkin custard with sticky rice.

TRAVEL FACTS

Karen Bowerman was a guest of AmaWaterways (www.amawaterways.co.uk) who offers an 11-night Mekong cruise and stay from £2,229 per person (was £3,029 per person) including two nights pre-cruise in Siem Reap and seven nights cruising the Mekong on the AmaDara. Excursions and airport transfers are included in the price.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



STEVE JOBS
(15, 122 mins) Drama

DANNY Boyle's bravura portrait of the revered Apple Inc co-founder is neither a traditional biopic nor a gushing hagiography.

Michael Fassbender and Kate Winslet are mesmerising as the titular maven and his right-hand woman.

In the first section, Steve prepares to launch the first Mackintosh flanked by marketing executive Joanna Hoffman, one of the few people that tolerates his outbursts.

When the computer's voice function glitches, Steve verbally abuses development team leader Andy Hertzfeld. Apple CEO John Sculley watches on, bearing witness to the birth of a monster.

In the second chapter, set four years later, Steve clashes with his first girlfriend Chrisann Brennan, who claims he is the father of her daughter.

Bitter defeat turns into triumph in the final act as Steve returns to the Apple fold, ousts Sculley from his perch and prepares to dazzle the world with the iMac.

THE LADY IN THE VAN
(12A, 104 mins) Comedy/Drama

THE Lady In The Van is an entertaining screen adaptation of Alan Bennett's award-winning 1999 play, based on his experiences of a sharp-tongued vagrant called Miss Shepherd, who camped outside his driveway for more than 15 years.

Alan moves into a house in Camden and is befriended by well-to-do neighbours.

Soon after, cantankerous Miss Shepherd settles in their street in her ramshackle vehicle and bullies Alan into pushing her transport, when it refuses to start during a downpour. When council bureaucracy threatens her future, the playwright lets her take up residence on his driveway.

Months turn into years and the playwright despairs as he becomes Miss Shepherd's guardian.

When a police officer called Underwood begins to harass the old woman late at night, Alan speculates about her former life.



THE HALLOW
(15, 97 mins) Horror/Thriller

BRITISH Adam travels around the remote Irish countryside, looking for sick trees. He settles in a new community with his wife Claire and their newborn, and immediately clashes with the locals, including Colm and the Garda.

They strongly advise Adam to stay out of the woods because the trees are home to dark fairies, which do not react kindly to intruders. Adam dismisses the folk stories and proceeds with his work.

He soon realises that Colm was not joking about the spirits of the forest and Adam and Claire come under attack from supernatural creatures intent on stealing their baby.

By Hannah Stephenson
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



LAWNS: With the predicted long winter there may be a shorter period for lawns to recover

Give your lawn a pick-me-up

SO many of us leave our aerating and scarifying until spring, yet lawns will benefit from a pick-me-up now before winter sets in.

So says grass care expert Steve Taylor, of GreenThumb, the UK's largest lawn care provider.

With the predicted long winter, there may be a shorter period for your lawn to recover if you carry out work in spring than if you prepare the ground now ahead of Christmas, he says.

"At this time of year, the ground temperature is warmer than the air temperature which speeds up recovery from aeration and scarification. Essentially, your grass will recover quicker at this time of year because spring doesn't always play fair."

As daylight hours diminish and temperatures cool, key things to watch out for include air movement over the lawn.

"This can be hampered by fencing, leaves being left on the lawn or the fact that the lawn is on an estate and surrounded by houses, which can create issues such as poor air movement, resulting in disease," explains Mr Taylor.

Other problems to look out for include:

Disease: We are starting to see leaf spot in lawns along with microdochium patch. Both of these are affected by air movement and a lot of dew left on the grass plant for too long a period. He advises: "Try to keep the lawn area dry by removing the dew or trying to find a way to improve air movement."

Leaf removal: Leaves left on the lawn for too long will restrict the amount of light the plant will receive and, at this time of year, light is important. You want as much light on the lawn to help keep the plant reasonably healthy. Try to remove the leaves, if not daily, then weekly as a minimum.

Cutting: "Many believe that as soon as you get to the end of October, you can stop cutting the lawn, but this is not a great idea due to the weather patterns we get in the UK. If the lawn is growing then it is advisable to cut it to keep it tidy. When cutting, ensure you have a sharp blade on the mower and do not cut the lawn too short."

Treatment: If you are going to treat your lawn now, use a micro nutrient feed which helps to toughen the plant, assisting with the chlorophyll (which allows plants to absorb energy from light). It turns moss black.

Compaction: After a season, many lawns can build up compaction, reducing air, water and nutrient movement in the root zone, which can in turn affect the production of thatch due to reduced microbial activity. Taylor suggests: "Have the lawn aerated to reduce compaction and if the compaction is not the issue and the soil is light, it could be that the thatch levels have become subsurface and the best control for this is hollow tine aeration."



mydate24

Try it.. You'll love it!

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**



How to use your mydate24 dating service ...

Place your advert call:
0844 381 5289
and follow the simple instructions

To **Place** your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098**
FREE Standard Network rates apply.

To **Reply** to members from your landline call:
0906 515 7112
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

Or **Text...** **REPLY2** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY2** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Date **ONLINE**
YOU can now date online or via your **mobile**
Simply **VISIT** us at:
www.bbjournal24.mydate24.co.uk

Been left a message?
Pickup your replies:
0906 515 7114
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you*.. visit..** www.bbjournal24.mydate24.co.uk

Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

SLIM female GSOH, 5'3, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4290 Box 419673**

KIND lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4298 Box 418167**

PAT, slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, clean-shaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 515 4289 Box 410127**

MARION, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4274 Box: 405297**

CHANTELLE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883**

ATTRACTIVE solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent any age for no strings discreet fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4692 Box 419701**

MARIE, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955**

RACHEL late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741**

ESSEX lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117**

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793**

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435**

NICE female looking for decent geniune male for friendship to start out with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874**

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603**

PAT, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTM professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569**

RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517**

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515**

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215**

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211**

PETITE Asian lady, slim, N/S, seeks genuine N/S male for wining/dining, fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414515**

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171**

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297**

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233**

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195**

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTM honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827**

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

HUBERT, lives in Rochester, single, lonely, looking for someone to get together with and make something happen and enjoy the rest of life with! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420049**

DAVID, 39yrs, divorced with no ties, lovely flat in spain, seeks travel companion, single mums welcome. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4112425**

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077**

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

MALE 56, likes good conversation, seeks older lady for discreet friendly fun, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419201**

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909**

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

MALE 56 yrs, GSOH, n/s, would like to meet a lady to have happy times, lots of love to give, to enjoy good times in and out. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4181244**

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081**

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079**

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077**

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841**

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549**

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970**

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195**

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985**

MALE 51, 5ft 8ins, N/S, GSOH, easygoing, seeks slim female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338269**

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750**

CLINT, 37, kind, caring, honest and WLTM someone of any age who is similar and looking for a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951**

WHITE Knight 59 5'10 tall, OHAC, in shining armour, looking for Damsel in Distress of similar age to share fun & laughter. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5073004**

CALM, kind and good company, male seeking a lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419733**

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535**

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

MALE 47, builder, seeks lady for companionship and closeness, age and looks unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4924811**

MATTHEW, five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

45 year old male, looking for a happy intelligent friendly female for company and evenings in or out, looks or race unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5063649**

JOHN, 47, six foot two, well-built, handsome, non-smoker, intelligent and funny, doesn't, take himself too seriously, easy to get along with, seeks attractive female, any age, for discreet, adventurous, any time fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419461**

NICE looking genuine man would like to meet nice lady any age for company, outings with GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4922399**

ANDREW, 63, likes animals, walking, boot fares, shopping, looking for someone similar living in the Maidstone/Kent area, for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419203**

RICHARD 59 from East Kent. WLTM genuine female 50 plus for friendship! **Text only to Mailbox No: 4448765**

MIKE Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275**

MALE, 39, tall, hardworking, 6ft 2, looking for long-term lover/older woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418877**

WRITER tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749**

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889**

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663**

ASHFORD male, 66, GSOH, easy going, smoker, down to earth, adventurous, seeks like-minded female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416845**



SIMON, 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, WLTM a pretty leggy female, 35 years plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827**

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929**

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789**



BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397**

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, kind, affectionate, loving, seeks special lady for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393855**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

55YR old male, 5ft 9ins, slim, likes swimming, pool, seeking female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418265**

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535**

69YR old male ,professional, 5ft 10ins, fit, medium build, young outlook, reliable, sincere, likes most things, seeks slim, slender, uncomplicated lady. Kent/Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418531**

RICHARD 63, N/S, clean-shaven, likes meals out, days out, classic cars, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418517**

JONATHAN good looking, considerate, long curly hair, N/S, seeks tall, slim female, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418451**

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

JESSICA, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713**

FEMININE, sexy, cross-dresser, non-smoker, seeking cross-dresser gay or bi guy for fun. Must be non-smoker. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4866072**

BI male, slim, passive, seeks older bi M, 75- 90, for gentle fun and friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4398888**



All messages received £1.50. Text STOP to 89990 to exit at any time Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged This service is not computer generated. Messages are responded to by realservice users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to chose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207720 7130 or email: support@jmediauk.co.uk

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

Follow us on twitter @datelocally

CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send, Service only available where phone icon shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app. w/c 09/11/15

Christmas guide

advertisement feature

THERE are few places this Christmas where you can come along and see Father Christmas complete with his real reindeers this festive season.

But at the Reindeer Centre in Pluckley Lane, Bethersden, you can do just that.

So why not come along for a special visit and walk through his magical 150ft animated grotto? Walk through seven animated festive scenes, including the new Frozen scene. Children will then have their very own special encounter with Father Christmas in his log cabin with every child who pays him a visit receiving a quality wrapped present.

The large Christmas barn has a host of entertainment, all under cover, and is open every day from November 14. All the good boys and girls this year will be able to stroke and feed the real reindeer before they help



deliver their presents. You can also meet Santa's elves, smile for your Christmas photo, get free sweeties and play in the play areas - there's even free mince pies.

So come down and get in the festive spirit.

For details and how to get there, visit the website www.reindeercentre.co.uk

CHRISTMAS is coming and when better for friends and family to get together and enjoy a well-cooked meal, a drink and a warm, friendly atmosphere?

Which is where the Waggon at Hale provides the perfect venue.

Serving its pre-Christmas menu from November 26 to December 23, the traditional country pub is an independent family establishment on the Capstone Road in Chatham.

Emma and her team are there to offer you a warm and friendly welcome whether you are looking for somewhere to have a good old pint of real ale, a glass of wine or looking to dine on its freshly-prepared food served all day everyday.

So why not get in the festive mood with its pre-Christmas menu - boasting a three-course meal plus coffee and mints for just



£22.95 per person.

For more details on how to book or to make a reservation, just get in touch.

The Waggon at Hale, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham, ME5 7PP. Telephone: 01634 400800 or email: waggonathale2011@hotmail.co.uk

THE amazing success of the Canterbury Stagecoach School has continued unabated over the last 12 months.

Following the performances of over 60 children in the professional tour of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Marlowe Theatre, the school provided 36 children for the production of the classic Evita at the Marlowe in March and April of this year.

The show, currently at the West End, gave the children the opportunity to work alongside pop star turned musical performer, Marti Pellow, with 20 parents enjoying the experience as extras.

And the good news shows no signs of slowing. In March 2015 one of the school's students, nine-year-old Mia Drummond, has gained the part of Young Fiona in the Marlowe's production of Shrek - the West End hit which is embarking on a UK tour. The school continues its highly successful examination work with a 100 per cent pass rate in the acting examinations of the LAMDA organisation.

Of the 68 entrants, to date 26 youngsters have gained distinction and a further 40 passed with merit; many of whom took the highest acting awards of bronze, silver and gold medals. The school provides specialist teaching for all abilities in singing, dance and drama. Anyone wishing to enrol should contact principal Alan Goodwin via the website www.stagecoach.co.uk/canterbury or by phoning on 01732 824758.



WHY not celebrate with your friends in style at the Prince's Golf Club with its fabulous facilities in Sandwich?

Arrive in the Lounge Bar at the Lodge and enjoy a drink before you go through to the two AA Rosette Brasserie on the Bay for Chef's exquisite menu under the twinkling New Year's decorations.

After you have delighted in the flavours of the tasting menu, get your dancing shoes on and celebrate until the start of 2016 when we will offer a complimentary glass of Champagne to toast the New Year!

Why not extend the party festivities and stay overnight and enjoy our wonderful Kentish Breakfast?

Our full English breakfast will not leave you disappointed – bacon, sausages and black pudding from Preston Butchers and bread from Wingham Bakery – cooked to



order for you.

And before you depart why not blow the final 2015 cobwebs away with a walk along the beautifully unspoilt Sandwich Bay.

Please contact Reservations to book.

Call 01304 611118 or email reservations@princesgolfclub.co.uk

THE Royal Artillery Charitable Fund helps all retired and serving Gunners and their dependants in need.

Help it to help others and be part of the regimental family this Christmas.

Give now and play your part, and a worthwhile one, in assisting those who are less fortunate. Once a Gunner always a Gunner.

The Royal Artillery Association has branches in the Kent and south London area and are actively seeking new members.

If you are interested in joining us, full details of your local branch can be found at the website www.theraa.co.uk.

The branches welcome anyone with 'Gunner' interests at heart.

Most braches meet monthly with comradeship and social activities.

Many national events are supported



including taking part in an annual ceremony of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum and an annual assembly in Blackpool.

So make a real difference this Christmas and show your support to a worthwhile cause.

feedback

your say...

Send us your views.
Write to: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP
Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter: @kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Comprehensive education vital

LIKE Colin Bullen (KoS letters 1.11) I'm a working class lad who attended a grammar school and went to university.

We differ in that I do not share his rosy view of grammar schools as engines of social mobility. My experience was that they were institutions that predominately benefitted the middle class and entrenched privilege rather than spread it.

Whilst I'm grateful for the opportunities my school gave me, I've always been acutely aware of those of my compatriots who were left behind by the unfairness of selection at the age of 11.

Mr Bullen's view of comprehensive education is unjustifiably jaundiced. I wanted a different experience for my daughters, and both went to the local comprehensive where they had a far better social experience than I had; had an excellent education, and both went to Cambridge.

It's a long time since I was at school, but I can assure Mr Bullen that in the grammar school I attended, alongside some truly inspirational teachers, there were a fair number who were absolutely atrocious.

It is ludicrous to suggest, as he does, that comprehensive schools are a plot on the part of the liberal left to protect poor teachers whilst subjugating the working class. They are about fairness for all children, not just an unfairly selected minority. They cannot thrive alongside grammar schools which cream off a large proportion of more able pupils.

David Webb,
Tankerton

Failing 11-plus is not road to ruin

ANN Widdecombe, the former MP for Maidstone, failed her 11-plus but that didn't stop her from going to Oxford and getting a degree which just goes to show that a test at 11 doesn't determine a child's future.

Because it depends of whether they have good teachers, or not, irrespective of status.

Rosie Johnston,
Ightham

Stop blaming the system

IT SEEMS everyone is determined to blame someone else when it comes to their education - be it the selective system or teachers. But what about taking a bit of responsibility for themselves? Time and time again we have seen those who want to succeed and are prepared to make the effort, rise to the top.

P Nelson,
Chatham

Clarify earnings and our pay

I REALLY must take issue with the heading of Jamie Weir's article concerning the 'living wage' (KoS last week).

I am one who believes there is a big difference in the way in which the verbs 'to earn' and 'to be paid' should be used in order to avoid confusion in meaning.

The heading inter alia "... one-in-four do not earn a living wage" may be interpreted as to mean that those people are paid more than they are worth, instead of what I suspect is meant that they are not paid as much as the living wage.

I submit that there are many people at the bottom of the pile who are paid less than they earn (ie. are worth) and a large number of people at the top (ie bankers) who are paid far more than they earn.

It is about time HMRC stopped using variations on 'earn' and replaced it by variations on 'pay', then everyone would be quite clear as to what was meant.

Peter J Baker,
Maidstone

LETTER OF THE WEEK



What motivates the pro-Manston team?

I READ your article on the proposed 'coalition of goodwill' for Manston (KoS, 1.11) with some disappointment.

Your reporting of the whole Manston saga is utterly one-sided and I am afraid is a demonstration of utterly lazy journalism.

There is scant regard given to the current owners' rights. They are the legal owners of the site, and with that goes all the legal rights that ownership bring. A Compulsory Purchase Order is a blunt legal instrument which forces a change of ownership against the will of the owners. It should only be pursued as a last resort when there is an extremely strong case in the public interest.

The public interest test is not a measure of how many people are campaigning for the airport. It is, rather, a strict legal test which compares the social, environmental and economic benefits of the proposed CPO with the current owners plans. It is clear that this test can not be met on any of the parameters. Indeed, more jobs have been lost to Thanet by the idiotic decision to turn down the planning permission for building '870' than were ever employed at Manston.

Turning to political support, we have to ask whether it is appropriate for Roger Gale to act as a virtual spokesman and cheerleader for RiverOak. He now rabidly supports the Manston/RiverOak pairing in the face of almost overwhelming evidence that it is doomed to failure. Even to the extent of running down the only major employment hub anywhere near his constituency.

Is he now in a position where he feels he will lose too much face if he changes his position of the last 20 years? Or is he really willing to sell the economic well-being of the area for other unknown motivations? Who knows!

Robert Bird
via email

Time for Barnes to leave PCC

FURTHER to your article concerning Ann Barnes (KoS 1.11) – I would definitely suggest that she leaves the role, she has been a complete embarrassment from the commencement of the position.

On any questions that our household has raised with her office – nothing has had a satisfactory conclusion.

In fact, I think this particular office of police and crime commissioner throughout the UK should never have been created. It does not appear to have served any benefit except for those employed in the department.

J Johnston,
Sevenoaks

We need to bag up plastic issue

I DON'T think the government has thought the carrier bag issues through as charging 5p will eventually lead to job losses for the people producing carrier bags.

I don't understand why we are expected to pay for a bag when purchasing clothes or household items etc, which have always been put in bags, long before the supermarket started giving away carrier bags.

We still have all the other plastic which covers fruit and veg. Who needs bananas wrapped? Surely the way forward is bio-degradeable bags?

Elaine Maugham,
New Romney

Searching for distant relatives

I AM researching the descendants of Hugh and Mary Ronalds of Brentford. Middlesex. One of their descendants was Oriel Cunnington, nee West, who died in 1991 in Tonbridge. Oriel married George Cunnington in 1955.

I am writing to you to seek your assistance to locate any of Oriel and George's children who would be willing to assist me in my research.

Caroline Chalmers,
Australia (cmchal@tpg.com.au)

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

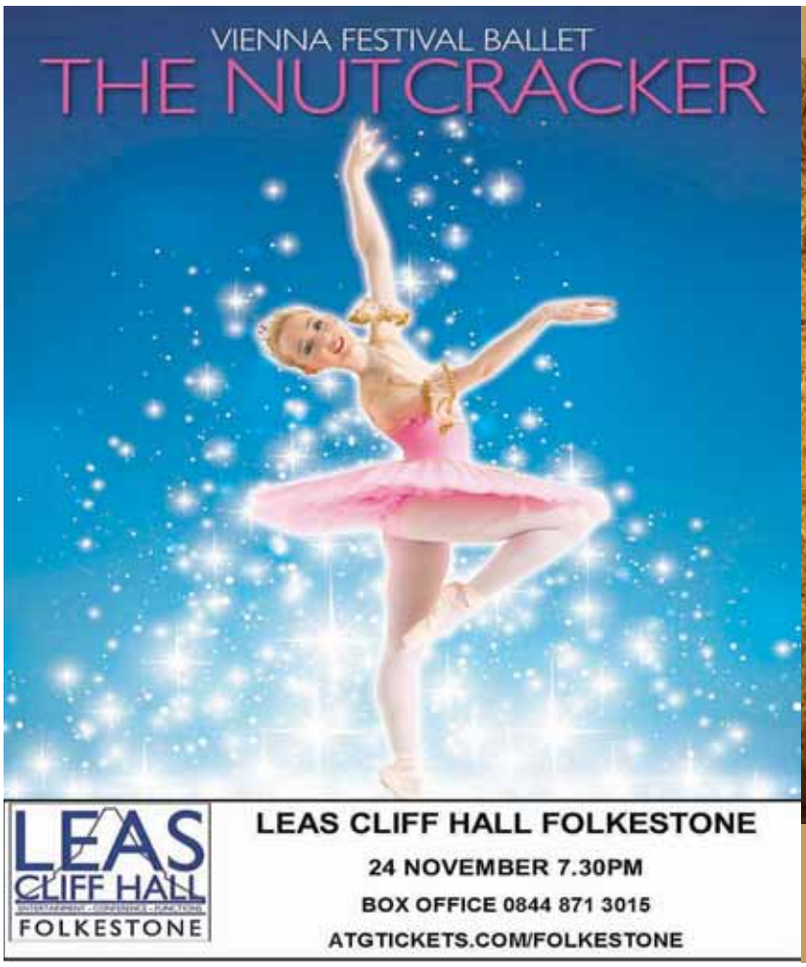
images of kent

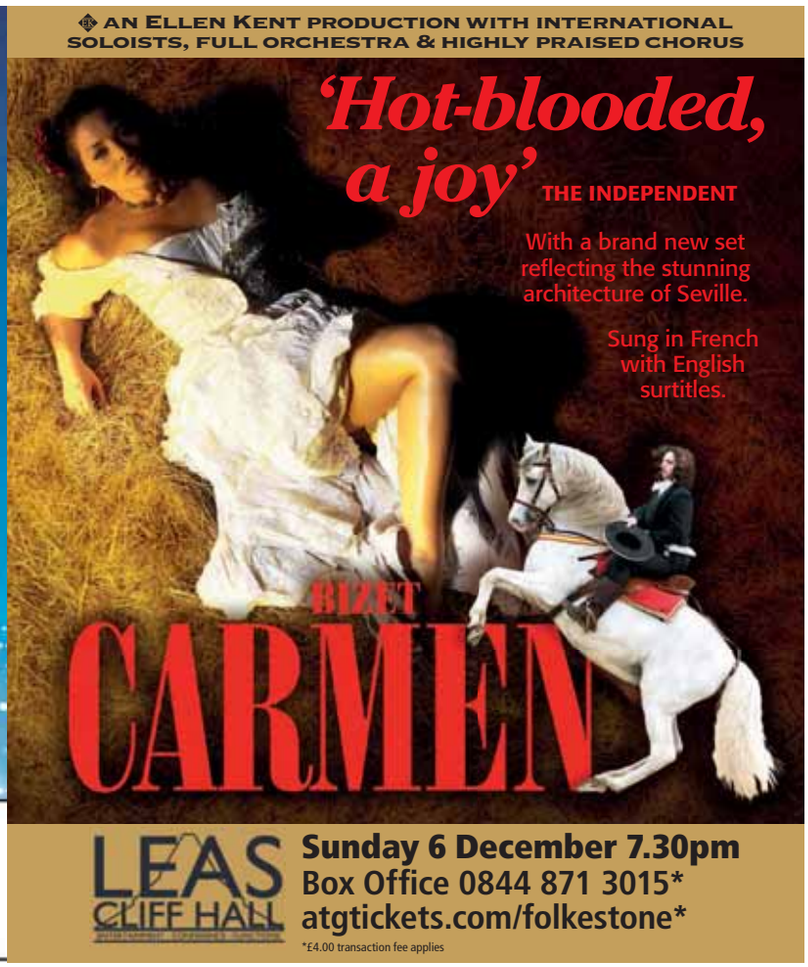


Canterbury Cathedral

by **Alan Blackburn, Canterbury**

To see your photograph printed, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**, or post it to **Archant KOS Media, Images of Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives.
Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi.
Please note, our relationship with MyFerryLink has now come to an end. We thank them for their long support.





DID SOMEONE SAY REVERSING CAMERA?

CITROËN



CITROËN C1

FROM ONLY £89 PER MONTH ON CONTRACT HIRE†

Some cars have that little extra something. In the case of Citroën C1, it's a reversing camera.[1] Brilliant for getting in and out of tight spots in town. Add to this, superb agility and super-efficient engines that give you up to 74.3 mpg;[5] a 7" touchscreen[2] control centre and unique bi-tone colour palette, it's no wonder the Citroën C1 is as irresistible as it is.

CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE

citroen.co.uk

CITROËN prefers TOTAL

† Offers apply to qualifying new models ordered & delivered 01/10-31/12/15 excluding National Fleet customers as defined by Citroën UK & exclude VAT. Contract Hire rentals shown apply to Citroën C1 VTi 68 manual 3-door Airscape Flair & an advance rental of £357 will be required followed by 23 monthly rentals on a 2 year agreement of 6,000 miles per annum. Contract Hire rental includes delivery to dealership, Citroën Roadside Assistance, Vehicle Excise Duty & Government First Registration Fee. Metallic paint optional at no extra cost. Model(s) shown Citroën C1 VTi 68 S&S manual 5-door Flair with optional Sunrise Red roof from £127.47 per month on a 2 year agreement of 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply if the agreed annual mileage is exceeded. Contract Hire rental rates have been calculated with the appropriate manufacturer's support applied to the OTR price. All rentals are subject to VAT at 20%. Citroën Contract Motoring reserve the right to amend any of the rentals quoted without notice. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Over 18s only. Finance provided by and written quotations available on request from PSA Finance UK Limited (company registration number 01024322) t/a Citroën Contract Motoring, Quadrant House, Princes Way, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1QA, UK. Citroën Contract Motoring is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Thames Motor Group (Tunbridge Wells) Ltd is acting as a credit broker and is not a lender. To finance your purchase/lease we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. Offers & specification correct at time of going to press from participating Dealers. Terms & conditions apply. Please ask us for details. Subject to stock availability. Finance offers apply to UK only. [1]Optional at extra cost on C1 Feel, available as standard on C1 Flair. [2]Available as standard on C1 Feel and C1 Flair. [5]Combined cycle C1 VTi 68 S&S manual models.

Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km): Highest:Citroën C1 PureTech 82 manual 5-door Feel 5.4/52.3, 3.7/76.3, 43/65.7, 99. Lowest:Citroën C1 VTi 68 S&S manual 3-door Flair 4.5/62.8, 3.4/83.1, 3.8/74.3, 88. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.

THAMES MOTOR GROUP 01892 549766

NORTH FARM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT, TN2 3EY www.thamestunbridgewells.citroen.co.uk

TOUGH GO-GETTER

CITROËN



NEW CITROËN BERLINGO

FROM ONLY £139 PER MONTH ON CONTRACT HIRE‡

A rock, a legend and quite simply THE benchmark for small vans. Amazingly, the New Berlingo is better than ever. With touchscreen SmartNav as standard, Grip Control[1] for greater traction in bad conditions, and a payload of up to 896kg, this tough nut is packed full and ready to go.

Awards 2014 WINNER WINNER

CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE

citroen.co.uk

CITROËN prefers TOTAL ‡Offers apply to qualifying new models ordered & delivered 01/10-31/12/15 for business users only, excluding National Fleet customers as defined by Citroën UK & exclude VAT. Contract Hire rentals shown apply to New Citroën Berlingo HDi 75 manual L1 625 Enterprise & an advance rental of £834 will be required followed by 23 monthly rentals on a 2 year agreement of 10,000 miles per annum. Contract Hire rental includes delivery to dealership, Citroën Roadside Assistance, Vehicle Excise Duty & Government First Registration Fee. Metallic paint optional at no extra cost. Model(s) shown New Citroën Berlingo HDi 75 manual L1 625 Enterprise from £144 per month on a 2 year agreement of 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply if the agreed annual mileage is exceeded. Contract Hire rental rates have been calculated with the appropriate manufacturer's support applied to the OTR price. All rentals are subject to VAT at 20%. Citroën Contract Motoring reserve the right to amend any of the rentals quoted without notice. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Over 18s only. Finance provided by and written quotations available on request from PSA Finance UK Limited (company registration number 01024322) t/a Citroën Contract Motoring, Quadrant House, Princes Way, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1QA, UK. Citroën Contract Motoring is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Thames Motor Group (Tunbridge Wells) Ltd is acting as a credit broker and is not a lender. To finance your purchase/lease we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. Offers & specification correct at time of going to press from participating Dealers. Terms & conditions apply. Please ask us for details. Subject to stock availability. [1]Grip control available as an option.

THAMES MOTOR GROUP 01892 549766

NORTH FARM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT, TN2 3EY www.thamestunbridgewells.citroen.co.uk

driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



CITY CHIC: rear-driven Twingo has panache

PERENNIAL STAR: the Clio has helped Renault Revival

RENAULT LATEST: the Kadjar crossover

Renault continues to revitalise

BRAND UPDATE: French marque's sales continue to outperform the UK market and will undoubtedly surge again with arrival of new Megane...

RENAULT caught a cold in 2012, losing market share and being forced to slash its model line-up.

But the medicine worked: the French brand has since roared back, and is still revving – sales are currently nearly 15 per cent up on 2014. This performance is all the more impressive since Renault may have cannibalised some of its own sales by launching the Romanian budget brand, Dacia, itself enjoying a near six per cent sales hike this year.

Renault's twin success stories have been its perennial star, the Clio supermini (from £11,145) - and now sporting its sharpish look yet - plus the Captur crossover (from £14,295).

Both wear sleek corporate styling that has further driven the brand revival, underlined recently by the launch of the Captur's equally elegant big brother, the Kadjar (from £17,995).

Part SUV, MPV/estate car and hatchback, it offers two or four-wheel drive, CO2 emissions as low as 99g/km and 74.3mpg (official combined).

Renault sales and image have also benefitted from the arrival of the cheeky Twingo city car (from £9,495) with its compact rear-wheel drive five-door format and tight turning circle.

It is as dramatic in style as its predecessor was low-key.



COMING SOON: all-new Megane arrives in 2016

Renault has now cast itself as the champion of electric power too, with impressive contenders in both commercial and passenger car markets, in the form of the Kangoo ZE light van (from £22,589) and Zoe city car (from £18,445).

The five-door Zoe is proof that electric cars don't need to look like they've been styled by a thwack with a giant frying pan.

But the icing on all of this cake will be the arrival next year of an all-new Megane family hatch, estate and coupe line-up; the fourth generation, and featuring all the styling hallmarks that has transformed the brand's fortunes recently.

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in...
KENT LIFE

» For more cars visit
drive24.co.uk
Powered by MOTORS
Search Smart, Buy Right .co.uk



The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the All-New Renault KADJAR Dynamique Nav TCe 130 are: urban 41.5 (6.8); extra-urban 57.7 (4.9); combined 50.4 (5.6). The official CO_2 emissions are 126g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Indemnities may be required. UK resident (excludes Channel Islands). Over 18s. Terms and conditions apply. We may introduce you to other finance providers. Offer based on 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on featured new vehicle shown when ordered by 31 December 2015 and registered by 31 March 2016. KADJAR shown has optional Flame Red Renault i.d. metallic paint, available at an additional £625.

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE KADJAR Dynamique Nav TCe 130

48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	CASH PRICE	DEALER DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	FINANCE FACILITY FEE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	OPTION TO PURCHASE FEE	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	DURATION	FIXED INTEREST RATE P.A.	5.9% APR REPRESENTATIVE
£269	£269	£19,695	£510	£18,916	£99	£9,085	£149	£23,024	48 months	5.46%	

MOTORLINE MAIDSTONE
Bircholt Road, Parkwood
Maidstone ME15 9XY
Tel 01622 616422

MOTORLINE CANTERBURY
Westminster Road
Canterbury CT1 1YY
Tel 01227 389706

MOTORLINE ASHFORD
Hilton Road
Ashford TN23 1EW
Tel 01233 215630

www.motorline.co.uk/renault

Book a test-drive

Land Rover Discovery goes sporty

Slick new Ingenium diesel engine adds to the allure of the versatile first addition to Land Rover's Discovery family, writes **Steve Loader...**

Land Rover Discovery Sport SE TD4 180PS Auto 4WD

Price:	£34,200
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Volvo XC60

EXTENDING the Range Rover brand worked well – the original luxury 4x4 now has Sport and Evoque models to support it.

And parent brand Land Rover seems keen to do the same with the successful Discovery name.

Last year, Land Rover's most junior model – the Freelander – was axed and the Discovery Sport (from £30,695) arrived, and you might wonder whether more Discovery spin-offs are in the offing, or whether the Freelander will return in a more compact form.

But it's clear that the 'Disco Sport' is no like for like replacement; it is a more upmarket, cohesive effort and benefits from two occasional extra seats on some models.

It's no seven-seater though and, to be fair, would have struggled to be that within the Sport's frame. So, if you need to go seven-up, then trade up - to the full blown Discovery.

The Sport's third row of seats are handy for school runs and squeezing in extra bodies for a short trip.

The junior 'Disco' uses the racy Evoque's underpinnings and upmarket cabin features, while offering far greater practicality than the Range Rover pin-up; the Sport's







two rearmost seats fold flat for a 981-litre boot capacity, while collapsing row two allows a 1,698-litres cargo area.

For one so practical and capable though, the Sport looks surprisingly trim and wears stylish LR trademark features, such as the honeycomb grille, sleek wraparound headlamps and clam shell bonnet.

Four trim levels are offered – SE, SE Tech, HSE and HSE Luxury – all with alloys, heated seats, part leather trim, DAB digital radio sound system, Bluetooth connectivity and climate control.

There's not much powertrain choice though – at least for now – but it is better than it was at launch: the Ingenium 2.0-litre diesel engine created for sister brand Jaguar's new XE saloon, wasn't quite ready in time for the Sport, which launched instead with the Freelander's 187bhp 2.2-litre diesel.

The Sport is all the better now for finally receiving the more refined new unit, available with 150PS (148bhp) in five-seat versions and 180PS (178bhp) for the 5-2-seat derivatives, plus six-speed manual or smooth nine-speed auto 'box – the latter being tested here.

Both can deliver the famed Land Rover off-road 4x4 ability, partnered with LR's famous Terrain Response system, offering selectable Normal, Mud, Sand, Rock and Snow modes. The Sport will also wade up to 600mm of water, but if you don't need such abilities then an eco-friendly front-wheel drive-only model is due later.

Does it merit the Sport label? Well, it can certainly be hustled along, with impressive grip (of course), good steering feedback, and with its relatively high body only heeling modestly on bends. Ride is also well-damped for such a robust vehicle.





Proud Sponsor of Home Nations Football

13 - 16 NOV 2015



£500 FREE FUEL | WITH A NEW VAUXHALL

IN ADDITION TO OUR OTHER GREAT OFFERS, EXCLUDING SCRAPPAGE^

Visit your local Vauxhall Retailer between 13 – 16 November to find out more.

Go Vauxhall Chislehurst
Perry Street
Chislehurst
BR7 6HB
0208 2787325
www.govauxhall.co.uk

Go Edenbridge
Station Road
Edenbridge
TN8 6HL
01732 423928
www.govauxhall.co.uk

Go Sevenoaks
Mill Road
Kent
TN13 2UZ
01732 423954
www.govauxhall.co.uk

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO_2 emissions: 373 - 85g/km.#

^Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on VIVA, Corsa Sting, Corsa Sting R, Run Out Astra and cannot be used in conjunction with the Vauxhall Scrappage Allowance. £500 Free Fuel will be supplied via a pre-pay debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/freefuel or contact your local Retailer for details. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24 units (purchase only). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on eligible new vehicle orders from 13 to 16 November 2015 which are registered by 24 December 2015. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.



NEW PEUGEOT 308 GTi BY PEUGEOT SPORT

Engineered by the experts at Peugeot Sport, the New 308 GTi combines the award-winning 308 hatchback with the ultimate in performance engineering and technology. Featuring a 1.6L turbocharged 270 HP engine, 11mm lowered ride height, 380mm front brake discs, Michelin Pilot Super Sport Tyres and a Torsen limited-slip differential. The New 308 GTi 270 by Peugeot Sport is designed to thrill.

Contact Motorline Canterbury to experience it for yourself.

MOTION & EMOTION

We're supporting BBC Children in Need
© BBC 2007 Reg. charity England & Wales no. 802052 and Scotland no. SC039557

PEUGEOT

MOTORLINE CANTERBURY

Broad Oak Road, CANTERBURY, CT2 7PX 01227 451791 www.motorline-canterbury.co.uk

PEUGEOT RECOMMENDS TOTAL Official Fuel Consumption in MPG (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 308 GTi are: Urban 34.9 (8.1), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.1 (6.0) and CO_2 139 (g/km). MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Torsen limited-slip differential, 380mm front brake discs, Michelin Pilot Super Sports Tyres available on the New 308 GTi 270 by Peugeot Sport 1.6 THP only. Information correct at time of going to press. Visit Peugeot.co.uk for more information.

TO ADVERTISE:

TELEPHONE: **01233 653461** EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk** ONLINE: **www.jobs24.co.uk/kent**



Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

"An outstanding school" (Ofsted July 2010 & October 2012)

We are currently looking for a

TEACHING ASSISTANT

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2
£15,523 - £19,742 pro-rata + SEN Allowance (£1,215)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am – 3.45pm), term time only. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided. Only those with childcare experience, or relevant childcare qualifications should apply.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted

Closing date: 27th November 2015

Thamesview SCHOOL
with Business and Enterprise status

Thong Lane
Gravesend
Kent DA12 4LF

t: 01474 566 552
f: 01474 537 405

e: schoolpt@thamesview.kent.sch.uk
www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher:
Mr Harry Ingham MA

ATTENDANCE AND WELFARE OFFICER

37 hours per week for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 6
£19,223.00 – £21,085.00 per annum
Pro rata to £16,221.01 - £17,792.23

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will promote and improve attendance across the school. The post holder will be pivotal in the home/school partnership working well; including being one of the key people for outside agency links.

The ideal applicant…

- Will relate well to students
- Must have good attendance and punctuality record
- Will be able to liaise and communicate effectively with outside agencies, staff and students
- Will be confident to work independently and multi task in a range of areas
- Will have a cheerful disposition, show confidence and contribute ideas to work alongside other pastoral staff
- Will demonstrate effective examples of initiatives they have developed in a school to date

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on: **01474 566552** ext 1120
Or Email: **k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk**

Closing Date: **16th November 2015, 9.00am**
Interviews: **Week Commencing 23rd November 2015**

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.

Healthy School · Eco-Schools · Specialist Schools and Academies Trust · INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

JOBS UPDATED EVERY HOUR



Look local with jobs24.co.uk

SET UP A JOB ALERT TODAY



Look local with jobs24.co.uk

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01233 653465 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Licensing Act 2003

Application for a premises licence variation

Name of Applicant: Palm Tree Management Ltd

Premises: Fourth Avenue, Warden Road, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4EW

Current Licensable activities: Sale of alcohol

Mon- Sun 00:00 – 23:59 Live Music & Recorded Music Mon-Sat 12:00 – 00:00 Sunday 11:00-00:00

Opening Hours : The premises can open between 00:00 – 23:59 each day for members, guests of members, staff and entertainers

Proposed Licensable activities: Extension of the licensable area

To include external bar, removal of Time Limited Licence and to be open to the public

Provision of Film,Boxing & Dance on Sun-Thurs12:00-00:00 Fri-Sat 12:00-02:00 & Late Night Refreshments Sun-Thurs23:00-00:00 Fri-Sat 23:00-02:00. All bank hols 02:00, New Years Eve 03:00

Date of Notice : 10th November 2015

Any objections to this application must be made in writing to The Licensing Department

Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 3HT

Objections must be received within 28 days of the date of this notice.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable, on summary conviction, to a maximum fine of £5,000

LICENSING ACT 2003

An application has been made by: **TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL** for the premises **ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE, CRESCENT ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT, TN1 2LU.**

On the date of: **9th November 2015**

Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening:

To remove the condition on the current licence relating to occupancy figures and to replace this condition with "maximum number of persons admitted to the premises as outlined by the Occupancy Figures in the Fire Risk Assessment Report attached to the application".

To extend the hours for all licensable activities to: Every day: 0800 to 02.00 the following day.

To extend the opening hours every day to 08.00 to 02.30 the following day.

Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004

Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the : **7th December 2015**

Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP

licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

Licensing Act 2003

Application for a premises licence variation

Name of Applicant: Mr Visagarajah Sutharsan

Premises: St Johns Mini Mart of 1- 3 St Johns Avenue Sittingbourne ME10 4ND

Current Licensable activities:

Sale of Alcohol : Monday to Sunday 06:00 until 21:00 Opening hours : Monday to Sunday 06:00 until 21:00

Proposed Licensable activities: (1) Change of name of premises (2) Change of lay out of premises

Sale of alcohol: Monday to Sunday 06:00 until 23:00 Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 06:00 until 23:00

Date of Notice : 9th November 2015

Any objections to this application must be made in writing to The Licensing Department

Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 3HT

Objections must be received within 28 days of the date of this notice.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable, on summary conviction, to a maximum fine of £5,000

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

An application has been made by: KAVITHA SIVOTHAYAN for the premises:

KWIK E MART, FOOD AND WINE STORE, 68 LOWER STONE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME15 6NA

On the date of: 06 NOVEMBER 2014

Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening: **RETAIL SALE OF ALCOHOL OFF THE PREMISES ONLY, STORE OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS 00.00 TO 24.00**

Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004

Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the: **04.12.2015**

Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Water Resources Act 1991
(as amended by the Water Act 2003)
Notice of application to vary a full licence to abstract (take) water

Southern Water Services Limited has applied to the Environment Agency for a licence.

The Environment Agency is giving notice of this application (in accordance with Section 37 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and Regulation 6 of the Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006.

The application is to vary licence serial number 9/40/02/0196/G which authorises the abstraction of water from groundwater at TQ 83 68.

The variation applied for is: an increase in annual and daily abstraction volumes to 42,000 m³ per year and 115 m³ per day.

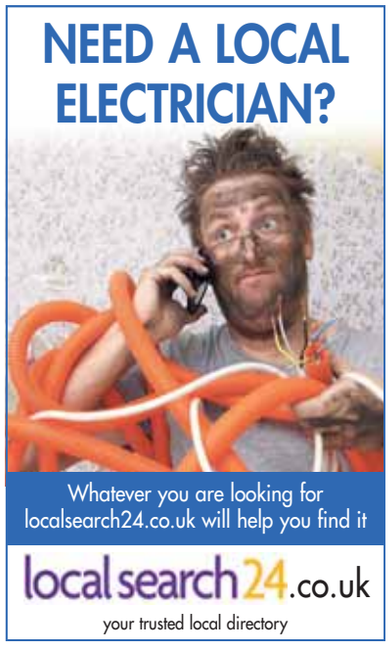
You can see the application and documents submitted with it at the Environment Agency: Orchard House, endeavour Park, London Road, Addington, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5SH during normal office hours (Monday to Friday, except bank holidays).

You can see a summary of the application from the Public Register at the above address during normal office hours.

Send any representation about this application in writing, quoting the name of the applicant and Reference Number NPS/WR/020770 to the Environment Agency, at Permitting Support Centre, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield, S9 4WF or by email to PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk by 13 December 2015.

For advice about how to make a representation call 03708 506506.

Date: 15 November 2015



MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009
RIVER MEDWAY NURSERY AREA (PROHIBITION OF FISHING) BYELAW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority intends to apply to the Minister for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation of a River Medway Nursery Area (Prohibition of Fishing) Byelaw to protect fish populations using the River Medway as a nursery area and offer protection to the Marine Protected Area designations of the site.

During the period of 28 days from the date of the publication of this Notice a copy of the Byelaw and Impact Assessment will be deposited at the offices of the applicant, at the address given below and at www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk.

Objections or representations concerning this notification should be made within 28 days of the date of this notice to both addresses given below:

Marine Conservation and Enforcement Team
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House, Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7YH
or ifcabyelaws@marinemanagement.org.uk

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Paragon House, Albert Street
Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9HD
or info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk

PLEASE MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN REPLYING TO THESE ADVERTS



Rally driver lifts lid on injury woe

Louise Cook told KoS how a surgical screw ruined her year

Motorsport

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MAIDSTONE rally driver Louise Cook has told the story of how her fight to get back to the World Rally Championship (WRC) was dramatically halted by a surgical screw from an operation two years ago.

Cook, who would have had this weekend's WRC Wales Rally GB in the schedule as her final round, is forced to look towards 2016 to make her return after the screw was compromising one of her main arteries beneath her collarbone plate.

Despite her success in 2012, when she became the first female in the world to gain an FIA championship award, Cook has long struggled to find sponsorship, and even had to sell her trophies on eBay to raise funds in the past.

She gained enough support this year to begin her campaign but suffered the setback just days before she was set for Italy in June.

"I was cutting up my dinner the night before we were set to leave and suddenly I had some serious pains, then my arm started to turn purple, I was pretty worried," she said.

It took weeks to get a diagnosis, however, before a CT angiogram revealed that a surgical screw, which has now been removed, was obstructing blood flow.

"I was about to set off to Rally Italia Sardinia where I had previously snapped my clavicle on a landing from a jump back in 2012.

"I do not like to think of what could have happened if I had taken the same impact this time around."

The injury ruled Cook out of action but the challenge to find sponsorship has continued, even during her recovery.

"Every day I do intense fundraising, trying to meet as many people as possible," she said.

"It feels like I am starting all over again especially after losing so much money on the events.

"But I'm on the mend, back in the simulator and I can feel my arm getting stronger.

"Hopefully 2016 will be a better year."



COOK: The rally driver has spoken out about her difficult year

Sports minister bemoans 'dark day for sport'

CHATHAM MP and sports minister Tracey Crouch has described the scandal engulfing athletics as a "dark day for the world of sport".

Russia faces being banned from the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, after an investigation revealed "state-sponsored" doping on a wide scale in one of sport's biggest ever scandals.

An independent commission set up by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has revealed that 1,417 samples were deliberately destroyed on the orders of the director of Russia's drug-testing laboratory - who took cash to cover up positive tests - while there was intimidation of officials by undercover officers from the Russian secret service FSB.

The commission's chairman Richard Pound said Russia should be banned from next year's Olympics, and that London 2012 had been "sabotaged" by the presence of Russian athletes with suspicious doping profiles.

Sebastian Coe, the new president of the sport's governing body the IAAF, has insisted the sport will reform.

Kent's Conservative MP Ms Crouch said: "This is a dark day for athletics and the world of sport. Anything that challenges the integrity of sport must be addressed head on with strong sanctions.

"Our anti-doping agency UKAD works tirelessly to promote clean sport and we expect nations around the world to have a similar robust approach.

"Fans and athletes alike must be able to have complete faith that competition is fair and I welcome Seb Coe's commitment to rebuild trust in international athletics."



CROUCH: The sports minister spoke on athletics' doping scandal

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Tom Pyman** on **01233653477**

Young sportswoman award for Asher-Smith

DINA Asher-Smith was among the winners at a star-studded Sportswoman of the Year awards ceremony last week.

The Orpington-born sprinter continued her incredible year by picking up the Young Sportswoman of the Year award, given to those under the age of 21, beating the likes of Rachelle Booth, Ellie Downie and Siobhan-Marie O'Connor.

Asher-Smith said: ''The highlight of my year was running sub-11 seconds in the Olympic stadium in July.

''People say it might happen but actually being able to do it, in front of my mum and dad too, was amazing.

''This year has been a little overwhelming, a bit different. I didn't expect to achieve this much.''

The 2015 Sunday Times & Sky Sports Sportswoman of the Year gong went to Olympic gold medallist Jessica Ennis-Hill, who enjoyed another fine year, months after giving birth to her first child.

Kent's Lizzy Yarnold came third behind Lizzie Armitstead in second.



WINNER: Dina Asher-Smith



GLORY: Welling United's FA Cup dream continues with a second round tie

Welling draw Carlisle as Kent clubs depart

WELLING United were given a home tie against Carlisle United as the FA Cup second round draw took place on Monday night.

The fixture is reward for the Loui Fazakerley's side's 2-0 victory over Barwell, in which Ricky Wellard and Michael Bakare found the net.

League Two side Carlisle pose a bigger threat on paper but with home advantage, Welling will fancy their chances of springing a cup upset and making the third round where they will be joined by teams from the Premier League and Championship.

The third round - which the Wings reached in 1988/89 - is the furthest the club have ever gone in the competition.

However, they were not joined in the draw by Kent clubs as Maidstone United, Gillingham and Dover Athletic all crashed out, following defeats to Yeovil, Stevenage and Stourbridge respectively.

Welling's tie will take place on the weekend of December 5 and 6, meaning the club's league match with Torquay will be rescheduled.

New Maidstone trampoline park

KENT's first trampoline park is set to open in Maidstone at the end of the month.

The park, called Gravity, will be only the second in the UK when it opens at Lockmeadow Entertainment centre on November 30.

Targeted at adults, children and urban sport enthusiasts, it will incorporate more than 90 flat and angled trampolines as well as foam pits and basketball hoops, and is expected to create 65 jobs – from team leaders to kids party hosts.

There are currently more than 300 trampoline parks in America and the concept is spreading fast and expected to prove popular in the UK.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
Twitter @KentSport Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

OVER 250 USED CARS TO CHOOSE FROM



14 64 **Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16v SXi 3dr**

£7,000



14 64 **Toyota AYGO 1.0 X-Pression**

£8,000



12 12 **MINI Hatch Cooper 1.6 Cooper L**

£8,200



14 64 **Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v**

£8,900



12 62 **Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr**

£9,500



13 63 **Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo**

£9,400



14 14 Plate
Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr

Representative Example	
60 Monthly Payments	**£175.00**
Deposit	**£99.00**
Cash Price	**£8,700.00**
Amount of Credit	**£8,601.00**
Total Amount Payable	**£10,599.00**
Representative	**7.9%APR**

2 YEARS FREE SERVICING
ON SELECTED USED CARS

Barnes Auto Store
Part of FGBarnesGroup
Delivering excellence since 1899

Sutton Road, Parkwood, Maidstone
Kent ME15 9YF
Telephone: 01622 235 258
www.barnesautostore.co.uk

EASY TO FIND WITH SATELLITE NAVIGATION
JUST ENTER THE POSTCODE ME15 9YF
N 51 14 E 00 33

Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Terms and conditions apply, see dealer for details. F.G. Barnes & Sons Limited is a credit broker and not a lender. Finance subject to status. Available to 18s and over. Guarantee / indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer Finance RH1 1SR. **You will not own the vehicle until all repayments are made.** Please ask for further details.

A BANK BEATING 5 YEARS 0% APR REPRESENTATIVE FINANCE
ON THE NEW 65 REG MG RANGE



- LED Lights
- Bluetooth
- DAB Radio
- USB Port
- Smartphone Integration

MG 3 Match 1.5 VTi Tech Sport 5dr

Representative Example			
60 Monthly Payments	£159	Amount of Credit	£9540
Deposit	NIL	Total Amount Payable	£9540
Cash Price	£9540	Representative	0% APR



- Partial Leather Seats
- Sat Nav
- Bluetooth
- USB Ports
- Auto Wipers & Light

MG6 TS

35 Monthly Payments	£249.01	GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,911.75
1 Initial Payment	£248.90	Total Amount Payable	£16,125.00
Deposit	£1,249.00	Borrowing Rate	0.00%
Cash Price	£16,125.00	Representative	0%APR
Amount of Credit	£14,876.00	Excess mileage, based on **6,000 miles per annum**	
Doc & Option Fee	£0.00	Excess mileage charged at **14.9** pence per mile	
Interest Charges	£0.00		

MAIDSTONE MG
Part of FGBarnesGroup
Delivering excellence since 1899

Sutton Road, Parkwood, Maidstone
Kent ME15 9YF
Telephone: 01622 235 258
www.maidstonemg.co.uk

EASY TO FIND WITH SATELLITE NAVIGATION
JUST ENTER THE POSTCODE ME15 9YF

MG3 Fuel consumption mpg (l/100km) for MG3 Range: Urban: 37.7 (7.5), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 48.7 (5.8), CO_2 Emissions 136 g/km. MG6 Fuel Consumption mpg (l/100km): DTi-TECH Urban: 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban: 64.2 (4.4), Magnette: 59.0 (4.4), Combined: 57.6 (4.9). CO2 Mass Emission (Combined) 129 g/km. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Car shown for illustration purposes only. F.G. Barnes & Sons Limited is a credit broker and not a lender. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Available to 18s and over. Guarantee / indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer Finance RH1 1SR. **You will not own the vehicle until all repayments are made.** Please ask for further details.